The American Academy of Arts and Letters

AND

The National Institute of Arts and Letters

CEREMONIAL

Wednesday afternoon · May 25 · 1955

AT THREE O'CLOCK

Academy Auditorium 632 WEST 156 STREET · NEW YORK

DIRECTORS OF THE ACADEMY

PRESIDENT
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

CHANCELLOR
MARK VAN DOREN

SECRETARY
DOUGLAS MOORE

TREASURER
DEEMS TAYLOR

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VIRGIL THOMSON

CEREMONIAL PROGRAM

ORGAN PROCESSIONAL: "PASSACAGLIA" — DOUGLAS MOORE

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY — ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

CITATIONS OF NEW HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY-INSTITUTE — ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

WALTER DE LA MARE, born in England, who holds his high position in English letters securely and with grace. His poems, his short stories and his novels, but especially his poems, have now for half a century been notable for a delicacy which, so far from being inconsistent with their depth, is indeed an explanation of it.

ANDRÉ DUNOYER DE SEGONZAC, born in France, eminent master carrying on the tradition of great French painting. His own distinctly personal contribution is a moving, poetic vision imbued with love of humanity and nature.

JACOB EPSTEIN, born in New York, but now a British subject, a sculptor of great vitality, integrity and creative genius. His stone carvings are powerful; his bronzes have extraordinary emotional impact. He models clay as if it were molten metal, alive and flexible, so that the bronze retains the flow of the metal as well as the artist's creative fervor.

ARTHUR HONEGGER, born in Switzerland, but long associated with the great tradition of French music, whose fruitful career as a composer has developed from his early world success with "King David" and "Pacific 231" to a position of eminence as one of the most serious and respected composers of our time.

ANDRÉ MALRAUX, born in France, whose powerful and singular literary ability, expressed in an important series of volumes of fiction and belles-lettres, has reached its highest point in his treatise on painting and sculpture, *les Voix du Silence*, which embraces all art-history, old and new, oriental and occidental, in a single interpretation.

JACQUES MARITAIN, citizen of France and resident of the United States, whose writings on art and poetry rank him among the foremost literary critics of the time, as his philosophical and religious works place him among the first of contemporary philosophers.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER, born in Alsace, Doctor of Theology, of Medicine, of Philosophy and of Letters, and notable scholar in the art of music, a man who comes as close as anyone living to fulfillment of the concept of the universal man.

INDUCTION OF NEW ACADEMY MEMBERS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ACADEMY

DOUGLAS MOORE

During the year four members of the National Institute of Arts and Letters were elected to the Academy:

WYSTAN HUGH AUDEN

To the 20th chair, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Frank Jewett Mather, Jr., Wystan Hugh Auden, poet, of New York. A native of England, he has resided in the United States since 1937 and has become identified with American poetry in much the same fashion that our own T. S. Eliot has come to be regarded as an English poet. One of the most influential poets of his generation, he employs his great skills as a craftsman in verse of deceptive lightness and ironic wisdom.

AARON COPLAND

To the 27th chair, to fill the vacancy created by the death of James Earle Fraser, Aaron Copland of New York, composer, who by his originality, fastidious taste and impeccable workmanship, has won universal recognition.

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH

To the 36th chair, to fill the vacancy created by the death of John Taylor Arms, Joseph Wood Krutch, author, of Arizona, who as man of letters, theatre critic, literary essayist and biographer has brought genuine distinction to contemporary American literature.

ALLAN NEVINS

To the 50th chair, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Eugene O'Neill, Allan Nevins, historian and author of New York. His shelf of American histories and biographies stands massive and formidable, and as historian he is a distinguished successor to such notable Academicians as Rhodes, Beveridge and Freeman.

INDUCTION OF NEW INSTITUTE MEMBERS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTE

LOUIS KRONENBERGER

DEPARTMENT OF ART

PIETRO BELLUSCHI, born in Italy in 1899, has designed a great variety of buildings, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, many of which are internationally known and acclaimed. His work is marked by great personal character, and shows a fine feeling for materials and for new methods.

JOSÉ DE CREEFT, born in Spain in 1884, has done masterly works of sculpture, rugged, yet warm, in granite, marble, metal, wood; and is not least distinguished in the difficult art of repoussé.

LYONEL FEININGER, born in New York City in 1871, is a painter of noteworthy and poetic delicacy. Whether working in water colors, or, more rarely, in oils, he creates, often with the slightest of apparent means, a feeling of mystery and a strange sense of space.

KARL KNATHS, born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in 1891, has been, both as painter and teacher, a notable pioneer. The style of semi-abstraction he has evolved is at once highly individual and strikingly American.

MAX WEBER, born in Russia in 1881, is among the most distinguished of living painters, as much on the side of form and technique as in the very personal and deeply religious content of his work.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

HAMILTON BASSO, born in New Orleans in 1904, is best known as an informed, urbane and perceptive novelist, but he has also done valuable biographical and critical work.

CRANE BRINTON, born in Winsted, Connecticut, in 1898, is an able and adroit historian, in particular of the intellectual thought and historical currents of Europe from the time of the French Revolution to the present.

BRUCE CATTON, born in Petoskey, Michigan, in 1899, is probably America's most distinguished and most vivid current writer on military history, whose three recent books on the Civil War, emphasizing the part played by the common soldier, have become justly celebrated.

EDITH HAMILTON, born in New York City in 1867, has achieved notable distinction as a scholar-writer in her studies of ancient times: *The Greek Way*, *The Roman Way* and *The Prophets of Israel*, as well as in her translations from the Greek tragedies.

PHYLLIS MC GINLEY, born in Ontario, Oregon, in 1905, is famous for her technically brilliant and wittily observant volumes of light verse, among them *A Short Walk from the Station* and *The Love Letters of Phyllis McGinley*.

MARGARET MEAD, born in Philadelphia in 1901, is one of the most influential and articulate of living anthropologists, who in her *Coming of Age in Samoa* and *Growing Up in New Guinea* has established herself as a writer of vigorous prose.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

BOHUSLAV MARTINU, born in Czechoslovakia in 1890, is among the most admired of living composers. His work for orchestra and chamber groups, for opera and ballet, is distinguished for its formal no less than its emotional qualities; it is of our time without being enslaved to current fashions.

RICHARD RODGERS, born in New York City in 1902, is one of the most celebrated, talented and engaging of musical-comedy composers. His achievement extends from *A Connecticut Yankee* through *Pal Joey, Oklahoma!, The King and I* and innumerable other popular classics.

EDGARD VARÈSE, born in Paris in 1885, has been a pioneer in the music of this era. His compositions stand as landmarks in the movement to bring about a new organization of sound to express the spirit of the modern age.

ADDRESS: "THE SPOKEN WORD"

EELCO N. VAN KLEFFENS

This is the 34th address on the Evangeline Wilbour Blashfield Foundation.

PRESENTATION OF ARTS AND LETTERS GRANTS AND AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME FELLOWSHIP BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE

MARC CONNELLY

IN ART

To GEORGE BEATTIE, born in Cleveland, Ohio, in recognition of a gifted artist who paints with loving and sensitive appreciation of his motifs.

To HAZEL JANICKI, born in England, in recognition of an unusually imaginative artist who creates beautiful works of classic quality in a modern idiom.

To JULIAN LEVI, born in New York City, in recognition of an outstanding artist whose work is original and highly sensitive in form and color.

To ZYGMUNT MENKES, born in Poland, in recognition of a distinguished artist whose painting is beautiful in color and powerful in design.

To MITCHELL SIPORIN, born in New York City, in recognition of a fine artist whose work is of a high order, rich in color, form and character.

To ALBERT STEWART, born in England, a master craftsman, in recognition of the power and directness of his animal sculpture and the forceful design of his ecclesiastical carvings.

To SAHL SWARZ, born in New York City, in recognition of a talented artist whose work in metal and mosaic is a fresh and vital contribution to creative sculpture.

IN LITERATURE

To RICHARD EBERHART, born in Austin, Minnesota, author of *Song and Idea, Undercliff* and other books, for his lifework of poetry. His poems are remarkable for naturalness and candor of tone, fervor of insight, and for the force with which they present at once an active intelligence of the scene about us, and an essential simplicity of spirit.

To ROBERT HORAN, born in Denver, Colorado, for the keen observation and love of nature which inform his poetry and the excellent craftsmanship which it manifests.

To CHESTER KALLMAN, born in New York City, poet, librettist and translator, for his combination of a personal vision that is neither fashionable nor speciously eccentric with a painstaking and skillful technique of expression.

To MILTON LOTT, born in Idaho, in recognition of his novel *The Last Hunt*, in which, without sacrificing narrative vigor, he has given moral depth and psychological interest to a romantic episode of American history.

To WILLIAM KRASNER, born in St. Louis, Missouri, for his three novels *Walk the Dark Streets*, *The Gambler* and *North of Welfare*. By his ability to make the portrayal of mean surroundings and warped characters yield a sense of tragic exhilaration, he gives the reader an artistic pleasure too often denied by modern realistic literature; and at the same time the artist records his faith that life is livable.

To MORTON DAUWEN ZABEL, born in Minnesota Lake, Minnesota, for the body of his critical writing during the last twenty years. Combining a sure instinct for artistic truth with a scholarly respect for historical fact, he has steadily contributed to a fuller understanding of our literary heritage, while he has himself added to it by his care for diction and form in his own prose.

IN MUSIC

To HENRY BRANT, born in Montreal, Canada, who by his skillful and imaginative handling of instrumental resources has extended the range of orchestral expression.

To IRVING FINE, born in Boston, Massachusetts, in recognition of his outstanding gifts as a composer of choral and chamber music, songs and orchestral compositions that are pleasing in sound, instinctive in workmanship, and of a humane and refined sensibility.

To ADOLPH WEISS, born in Baltimore, Maryland, an impeccable master of contemporary techniques, in recognition of the unusual beauty, lyricism and musicality of his orchestral and chamber music.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LETTERS FELLOWSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

To RALPH ELLISON, born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who in a remarkable novel, *Invisible Man*, examined with unsparing honesty the inner life of a Negro in America and, through that life, some facets of the common experience of western man in recent years; a careful writer, whose prose has color, insight and power.

PRESENTATION TO GORDON BUNSHAFT
OF THE PRIZE IN ARCHITECTURE
(ARNOLD W. BRUNNER MEMORIAL) — RALPH WALKER

HONORABLE MENTION TO MINORU YAMASAKI

PRESENTATION TO HENRY ALLEN MOE
OF THE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
TO THE ARTS — DOUGLAS MOORE

ACCEPTANCE BY MR. MOE

PRESENTATION TO JORGE GUILLÉN
OF THE AWARD OF MERIT MEDAL FOR POETRY
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

ACCEPTANCE BY MR. GUILLÉN (Read by Mr. Claudio Guillén)

PRESENTATION TO EDWARD HOPPER
OF THE GOLD MEDAL FOR PAINTING — HENRY VARNUM POOR

PRESENTATION TO EDMUND WILSON
OF THE GOLD MEDAL FOR ESSAYS AND CRITICISM
VAN WYCK BROOKS

PRESENTATION TO EUDORA WELTY
OF THE HOWELLS MEDAL FOR FICTION — JOHN DOS PASSOS

ACCEPTANCE BY MISS WELTY

ORGAN RECESSIONAL:
"PREAMBLE (FOR A SOLEMN OCCASION)" — AARON COPLAND

HUGH PORTER · ORGANIST

At the close of the Ceremonial the ushers will direct you to the Terrace where refreshments will be served.

Exhibitions in the Art Gallery and Museum will be opened at five o'clock.

Members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters

WYSTAN HUGH AUDEN
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WALTER DE LA MARE
ANDRÉ DUNOYER DE SEGONZAC
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E. M. FORSTER
ROMULO GALLEGOS
ARTHUR HONEGGER
HU SHIH
AUGUSTUS E. JOHN
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G. FRANCESCO MALIPIERO
ANDRÉ MALRAUX
JACQUES MARITAIN
JOHN MASEFIELD
W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM
GIAN CARLO MENOTTI
IVAN MESTROVIC
DARIUS MILHAUD
GABRIELA MISTRAL
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
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BERTRAND RUSSELL
JOSÉ LUIS ZORRILLA DE SAN MARTIN
HENRI SAUGUET
ALBERT SCHWEITZER
JEAN JULIUS CHRISTIAN SIBELIUS
IGNAZIO SILONE
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LOUIS GRUENBERG
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ROY HARRIS
EDWARD BURLINGAME HILL
PAUL HINDEMITH
PHILIP JAMES
OTTO LUENING
BOHUSLAV MARTINU
DOUGLAS MOORE
ARNE OLDBERG
WALTER PISTON
QUINCY PORTER
JOHN POWELL
WALLINGFORD RIEGGER
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BERNARD ROGERS
CARL RUGGLES
WILLIAM SCHUMAN
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WILLIAM BEEBE
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PADRAIC COLUM
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OWEN DAVIS
BERNARD DE VOTO
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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
WALDO FRANK
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FERRIS GREENSLET
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JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH
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ROBERT LOWELL
PERCY MACKAYE
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH
THOMAS MANN
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CARSON MCCULLERS
WILLIAM MCFEE
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MARGARET MEAD
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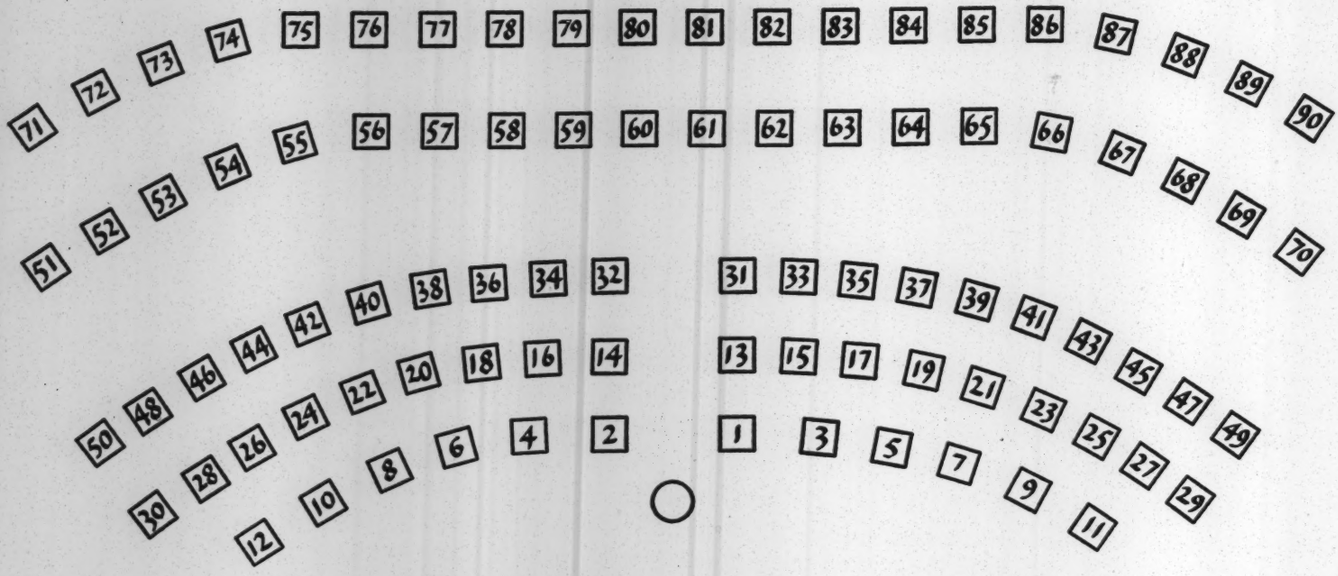
JOHN VAN DRUTEN
ROBERT PENN WARREN
EUDORA WELTY
GLENWAY WESCOTT
JOHN HALL WHEELOCK
THORNTON WILDER
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS
STARK YOUNG



SEATING PLAN ON STAGE

1 Archibald MacLeish
2 Marc Connelly
3 Eelco N. van Kleffens
4 Henry Allen Moe
5 Douglas Moore
6 Louis Kronenberger
7 John Dos Passos
8 Eudora Welty
9 Van Wyck Brooks
10 Ralph Walker
11 Mark Van Doren
12 Henry Varnum Poor
13 Paul Manship
14 Malcolm Cowley
15 Jules Romains
16 Clare Leighton
17 Jacques Maritain
18 Otto Luening
19 Claudio Guillén
20 James Kellum Smith
21 Chauncey Brewster Tinker
22 William Zorach
23 Deems Taylor
24 Hamilton Basso
25 Allan Nevins
26 Edith Hamilton
27 Barry Faulkner
28 C. Crane Brinton
29 Gilmore D. Clarke
30 Phyllis McGinley
31 William Adams Delano
32 Edward Hopper
33 Leon Kroll
34 Karl Knaths
35 Charles Hopkinson
36 Max Weber
37 Henry R. Shepley
38 Edgard Varèse
39 John Hersey
40 José de Creeft
41 Mahonri M. Young
42 Margaret Mead
43 Robert E. Sherwood
44 Pietro Belluschi
45 Pearl S. Buck
46 Matthew Josephson
47
48 Léonie Adams
49
50 John F. Folinsbee
51 Newton Arvin
52 Peter Blume
53 Isabel Bishop
54 Louise Bogan
55 John Mason Brown
56 Kenneth Burke
57 Cecil Howard
58 Padraic Colum
59 Mary M. Colum
60 Peter Dalton
61 W. E. B. Du Bois
62 Leo Friedlander
63 Eric Gugler
64 Walker Hancock
65 Virgil Thomson
66 Eugene Higgins
67 Rolfe Humphries
68 Marquis James
69 Philip James
70 John C. Johansen
71 Alfred Kreymborg
72 Henry Kreis
73 Harrie T. Lindeberg
74 Robert Lowell
75 Percy MacKaye
76 Oronzio Maldarelli
77 Marianne C. Moore
78 Hobart Nichols
79 Quincy Porter
80 Ernest David Roth
81 Henry Schnakenberg
82 William Schuman
83 Glenway Wescott
84 Malvina Hoffman
85 Edmond Amateis
86 Eugene Savage
87 Alexander Brook
88
89
90

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING THE TERRACE AFTER THE CEREMONIAL

In order to avoid serious congestion the audience is requested to remain seated until the stage is cleared.

Those seated in the orchestra may leave as they entered, by the doors on 156th Street, walk east to Broadway and enter the Terrace on Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets.

Those in the balcony and loges are requested to leave by the exits on the right and left hand sides of the balcony above the stage and approach the Terrace through the building.

Ushers will be on hand to give directions.

PLEASE HOLD YOUR TICKET FOR PRESENTATION AT TERRACE ENTRANCE

27-15-17

[American Labor Party]

STANLEY FAULKNER
COUNSELOR AT LAW
—
LEXINGTON 2-7780

9 East 40th Street
New York 16, N.Y.

January 13, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, New York

My Dear Dr. DuBois:

Would you be available to address a meeting of the A.L.P. in Great Neck, L.I., on February 17, 1955?

We are planning this meeting around National Negro History Week and Brotherhood Month. I do hope you can accept and that you and Shirley will be our dinner guests that evening.

I trust that you and Shirley are enjoying good health. I remain

Sincerely yours,
Stanley Faulkner

SF/rk

Transportation will be provided!

You will remember that I have to charge for my talks. If your group can affored

$25 , I will speak

January 17, 1955

Mr. Stanley Faulkner
9 East 40 Street
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

You will remember that I have to charge for my talks.

If your group can afford $25, I will speak on February 17, 1955.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-155-18

AMERICAN LABOR PARTY
STATE COMMITTEE

PETER K. HAWLEY
Chairman
HUGH N. MULZAC
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FANNIE GOLOS
Treasurer

STATE HEADQUARTERS
220 WEST 80th STREET
New York 24, N. Y.

Telephone: TRafalgar 3-3898

MORRIS GOLDIN, Executive Secretary

Dec. 28, 1955

42-19-94.

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter regarding the meeting on the Till case about which I spoke to you recently.

If the letter meets with your approval, I should appreciate an immediate response to give me time to send this letter out to about 100 people asking them to join the sponsorship of this meeting.

Sincerely,
Morris Goldin
Executive Secretary

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE 35 West 26 Street New York City
Mu 4-8256

A POPULAR SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMB WARFARE

June 26, 1955, is the tenth anniversary of the formation of the United Nations. A special session of the U. N. will be held in San Francisco from June 20 to 26. This will be a memorable occasion, coming at a time in history when the ordinary people the world over are exerting their utmost to prevent atomic annihilation, yet knowing that an even greater effort is needed. An anniversary meeting, held inthe city of the UN's birth, is a dramatic moment to once again show overwhelming proof of the intense resistance to nuclear war by the people of our own country.

Therefore, the American Peace Crusade proposes a nation-wide signature campaign directed to the United Nations during its commemoration meeting in San Francisco, and calling upon each nation 1) to pledge that it will not initiate nuclear warfare; 2) to pledge that all nuclear tests be ended; and 3) to pledge that the manufacturing of bombs be banned and all existing stockpiles destroyed.

We are not proposing a national campaign with uniform materials supplied by the APC. Rather we are suggesting that each council, group, or individual work out the form best suited to its own locality. Examples of different forms are: a petition, postcard, round-robin letter, or a ballot addressed to Mr. Dag Hammarskjold for the United Nations members.

Each locality may develop its campaign around one or more of the points mentioned above, However, since the key issue is nuclear war, we recommend the pledge not to initiate nuclear warfare as the basis of your campaign.

In some areas, it might be feasible to set up a representative committee specifically for this campaign. This, however, should not be done if it postpones the actual collection of signatures. We urge that you call together those organizations and individuals who will undertake this activity with you.

A truly dramatic impact can be achieved if all of the many thousands of individually signed requests are delivered in person at one time. The impact can be further heightened if at the same time a specially written press release covering this event is presented to every member nation.

Therefore we ask that you do not mail the signatures as they are collected. Instead, hold them for the time being. As for delivery, California (already under way in its campaign) plans to have them delivered by a representative delegation. New York is considering sending a delegation of its own. We hope that at least one other large city will be able to do the same. If this occurs, other areas will be able to mail their results to one of the delegations, and the signatures delivered by proxy.

We shall also keep you informed of our progress and of similar activity by other organizations.

We would appreciate receiving from you your reaction to this proposal and additional suggestions of how the campaign can be made most effective.

There are many ways to enlarge the campaign in addition to the collection of signatures. Letters to the press, leaflet distributions, visits to community leaders, pressure on Senators and Representatives, are some additional aspects.

Within the next two weeks we shall provide you with sample letters to the press, leaflets and even texts for petitions or ballots. We hope this will make it easier for you to launch your campaign. We shall include excerpts from important speeches and articles. We hope you will be able to come up with many more ideas.

###

27-10-17

to burn up, much of living China, and quickly, are we prepared to use such weapons to defend islands so tenuously related to American security?

"Finally, are we prepared to shock and alienate not alone our traditional allies but most of the major non-Communist powers of Asia by going to war over Quemoy and Matsu, to which the U. S. has no color of claim and which are of questionable value to the defense of Formosa?

"Are we, in short, prepared to face the prospects of war in the morass of China, possibly global war, standing almost alone in a sullen or hostile world?

"I have the greatest misgivings about risking a third world war in defense of these little islands."

Similar reactions to the danger of atomic war growing out of the Formosa crisis are being expressed in editorials, letters to the editor, and articles in newspapers and periodicals across the country.

There is decided increase in the efforts of many organizations of various sorts to organize popular expressions in opposition to the drift toward atomic war.

Scientists -- as individuals and through their organizations -- are playing a leading role in voicing concern about the growing threat to health and life itself from the continuance of thermonuclear tests. The Federation of Scientific Workers on March 6 proposed to President Eisenhower that a United Nations commission "study and assess the potential danger in atomic and thermonuclear tests." On April 8, the National Academy of Scientists announced it would undertake a study of the "present knowledge about the effects of atomic radation on living organisms."

The popular alarm over the danger of atomic war is so great that it is finding expression in Congress, where Senator Morse, supported by Senators Lehmann, Humphrey, Long and Kefauver, has introduced a resolution to prevent U. S. involvement in atomic war with China over Quemoy and Matsu islands. The pace of the movement against atomic warfare is all the more striking when it is noted that this resolution comes only two months after the overwhelming Congressional support for President Eisenhower's Formosan resolution.

Now is surely the time for popular expressions of all kinds, against nuclear warfare. To help organize these expressions, the American Peace Crusade proposes a nation-wide campaign to prevent atomic warfare. The enclosed memo gives you our approach to this campaign.

###

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

The Morse resolution (submitted to the Senate April 1) needs the support of every Senator and Representative.

We urge 1) immediate wires, letters, calls and visits to your own Senators and Representative; 2) communications to Senator Walter F. George, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Building, Washington, D. C. No effort should be spared to set into motion community leaders and organizations. Their pressure on Congress will stem the tide toward atomic war in Formosa.

(over)

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE
35 West 26 Street
New York City
MU4-8256

April 13, 1955

Dear friend:

On March 20 our Resident Board, including leading sponsors and leaders of local peace councils, met for a full day's discussion to assess the present status of the work for peace in our country and the role of the American Peace Crusade. We want to share with you in this letter and in the accompanying bulletin our appraisal and conclusions.

Today mankind faces a new and greater danger of nuclear war. T his grows out of the decision of the Paris meeting of the NATO governments to base their military strategy on the use of atomic and thermonuclear weapons. German rearmament and the crises over Formosa makes this threat very immediate.

This unparalleled danger has aroused on an unprecedented scale the concern and active intervention of individuals and organizations in all walks of life -- in our own country as well as the rest of the world. There was unanimous agreement 1) that the situation demanded that our program focus on the prevention of atomic war; 2) that we actively seek to encourage all those aware of this danger to find ways to take action against it. In pursuing this central objective the following three-point program was unanimously adopted.

1. In view of the NATO Council's decision and the danger of atomic warfare in the Formosan crisis, the Resident Board decided to press for a pledge that our Government not initiate atomic warfare.

2. In view of the incalculable hazards from atomic tests the Resident Board calls for the ending of all atomic and thermonuclear tests.

3. In view of the fact that any attempt to settle international issues through force, as in Formosa, threatens the world with atomic war, the Resident Board decided to press even more strongly for international negotiations as the only way to settle disputes between nations.

The enclosed field bulletin expands on these conclusions as well as a plan of action to be undertaken immediately.

Heartfelt tribute was paid to Mr. Thomas Richardson for his courageous, discerning and inspiring leadership of the American Peace Crusade during years of achievements and stress. In addition, the Board decided to hold a public tribute for him. Mr. Richardson tendered his resignation as National Co-Director in order to devote his time fully to several cultural projects in which he is associated with Mr. Paul Robeson. Welcoming the fact that his new work will enable him to expand his valuable leadership in the work for peace while remaining as an active sponsor and leader of APC, the Resident Board accepted Mr. Richardson's resignation with regret. The Board approved the designation of an enlarged voluntary staff, with Mrs. Betty Haufrecht continuing as Administrative Secretary.

The Board was confident that with the renewed dedication expressed by those present, and with the continued cooperation of local groups, the enlarged voluntary staff will be able to continue the work of the American crusade for peace.

Sincerely yours for peace,

Betty Haufrecht

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

27-10-16

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE 35 WEST 26 STREET New York City
Mu 4-8256

FIELD BULLETIN April 13, 1955

DRAFT PEACE ACTION MEMO

The imminent danger of atomic war is causing great alarm and intense counter-action throughout the world.

The danger is indeed real and menacing. For the first time since the discovery of atomic weapons, a group of governments has openly and officially declared its intention to use such weapons in the event of war. The fourteen NATO governments, including the United States, made this decision at the NATO Council meeting in Paris on December 18, 1954. These governments now base their military planning on the use of nuclear weapons, recasting their whole military organization for this purpose.

The implications of this decision are far-reaching.

Every local conflict now threatens to become an active A and H bomb war. Since the armies of the NATO nations will be geared to fight only with nuclear weapons, all nations are forced to prepare for atomic war. The conventional arms race is becoming an atomic arms race, as evidenced by the decision of Great Britain to make hydrogen bombs and the declaration of France that it will become an atomic power, while the Soviet Union announces a plan to share atomic know-how with other nations.

The Paris decision is all the more grave because it includes giving nuclear weapons to the new German Wehrmacht. The immediate effect of the decision is clear as it relates to the Formosa crisis.

In the face of the active opposition of the people to the use of weapons of mass destruction, some governments are trying to make a distinction between such horror weapons as the H-bomb and tactical atomic weapons. Such governments even encourage the building of public sentiment for the banning of the H-bomb by publishing detailed reports of the terrible power of such weapons, while at the same time attempting to get public support for the idea that wars fought with tactical weapons of the atom type will be quick and even merciful.

But people everywhere know what happened to Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the atom bomb was dropped on these cities. They know that once atomic war begins in any form, no limit can be set to its destructiveness. For this reason, peace workers throughout the world, while pressing hard for the banning of all weapons of mass destruction and for general disarmament, are rallying the strongest possible expression of public opinion against the initiation of atomic war in any form, especially in view of expressed readiness of the NATO governments to initiate such warfare.

In our own country, too, the danger is clear and public opinion has not been dormant.

Mr. Dulles, on returning from the Bangkok SEATO meeting, indicates in a nation-wide TV speech that the U. S. government is prepared to use atomic weapons if war with China should arise over the Formosa crisis.

President Eisenhower speaks of using atomic weapons like bullets. Senator Knowland urges the defense of Quemoy and Matsu Islands, even if this means war, and declares that he is sure atomic weapons would be used in such a war.

Press reports show that the highest military circles are attempting to determine the date when such a war will begin.

The testing of nuclear weapons continues at an increased pace.

(over)

Such an unprecedented threat of imminent involvement in atomic war calls for unprecedented action to prevent it.

The hundreds of millions of people in every land, who in the past have clearly expressed their opposition to the use of the atom and hydrogen bombs, are shocked today to find governments acting as if the people now are ready to approve the use of such weapons. To make clear their constant opposition to the use of such weapons, many groups and individuals are again speaking out in every land. Among these is the World Council of Peace, which in January launched a great signature campaign to help give speedy expression to the will of the people in this regard. Already, hundreds of millions of signatures have been collected. This activity is a vital part of the preparations going on in every land for participation in the World Peace Assembly called by the World Peace Council for May 82 in Helsinki. On April 18, the Asian-African Conference opens in Bangkok, Indonesia. Thirty Asian and African nations with many diverse political, economic and social systems will have on their agenda the question of nuclear weapons and their testing.

In the Pope's Easter message to the world, he stated: "We bless all those whose activity has a decisive influence on the good of humanity, and in whose hands rests a tremendous power either to promote or to inflict serious harm on those ends.

"We bless them, in order that they may not close, but rather open wide the gates to God's work; so that sincerely prepared to reach a lasting understanding, they may throughout the world arrange treaties which will insure peace, start a progressive disarmament and thus spare humanity the destruction of a new war.

"Still, concerning what research can accomplish in an ambitious control of life, we must again raise our voice of warning against the dangers, which the science of genetics foresees as possible, when that mysterious something which is deep down in every living thing, is handled recklessly, or subjected to a violent change of habitat, by a cause such as, for example, an increased radio-activity in the face of a yet unknown margin of biological security. The horrors of monstrous offspring, and, worse still, the hidden shocks caused to parental genes, would then give indication of the revolt of nature against such violence."

In our own country, in a recent open letter to President Eisenhower, fourteen Protestant Church leaders called on him to stop the drift to atomic war in the Formosan situation, stating that they are shocked that the President's advisers are urging him "to consent to all-out war and the use of atomic bombs." They stated: "Such an irresponsible policy would expose the United States government and the American people as wanton aggressors." They added: "We think that to risk world-wide atomic war for the prestige of Chiang Kai-shek would not only be a folly, but a crime of the first magnitude."

"The question of peace transcends every other question that we face as a free people," said CIO President Walter Reuther in the main report to the recent CIO United Auto Workers convention in Cleveland.

"What good is a higher wage if our cities are in ashes?" he asked. "What is the future of our children unless mankind finds a way to prevent the use of these terrible weapons of destruction? Nobody can win a war fought with atomic H-bombs and, therefore, what we need to realize is that we can win only if we find a way to avoid a war."

Adlai Stevenson, in his radio address on April 11, said in part: "The tragedy is that the possibility of war just now seems to hinge upon Quemoy and Matsu, small islands that lie almost as close to the coast of China as Staten Island does to New York. Why are we in this bleak situation? Why is all the world anxious?

"Can they /Matsu and Quemoy/ be defended without resort to nuclear weapons?

"If not, while I know we now have the means to incinerate,

27-10-18

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE
35 West 26th Street
New York 10, N. Y.

April 27, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Enclosed you will find a check for $50.00, a payment on our debt to you. We are acutely aware that we have not been able to maintain payments on a regular monthly basis, but we are doing our best to resume regular payments.

Since you were out of the city at the time of the last Resident Board meeting, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a letter about the meeting. Also, under separate cover, I am sending to you a field bulletin initiating our current campaign against nuclear warfare.

Sincerely yours,

Betty Haufrecht

Betty Haufrecht
Administrative Secretary

27-12-20

April 28, 1955

The American Peace Crusade W.E.B. Du Bois Dinner 1952

to ½ net proceeds from dinner.....$1225

to ½ of pledges of $585
(collected total?)

27-12-19

Credit:

January 5, 1953	$150.00
February 20, 1953	50.00
December 17, 1953	100.00
January 26, 1954	100.00
March 2, 1954	100.00
April 13, 1954	100.00
June 17, 1954	100.00
April 28, 1954	50.00
Total:	$ 750.00

Balance due: $475.00
Plus half amount collected from pledges.

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

MEMORANDUM

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE

~~3~~7 west 26st Rm. 1409

July 29 '55

Dr. W.E.B Du Bois
23 west 26st.
New York City

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

The enclosed check for $100.00 is a partial payment of our debt to you.

Sincerely,
Betty Haufrecht
Admin. Sec'y.

261

WE CANNOT WAIT FOR PEACE — WE MUST WIN IT

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE

ILLINOIS ASSEMBLY

166 WEST WASHINGTON STREET CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS RANDOLPH 6-5981

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PROF. MORRISON SHARP
DR. JEREMIAH STAMLER
MANDEL A. TERMAN
[redacted]
HAROLD WARD
PEARL B. WASHINGTON

42-19-8

42-19-9

August 25, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

We are writing to ask you to be the speaker at a meeting that the Chicago Council of the American Peace Crusade is planning for mid-October. The purpose of this meeting, which we expect will draw an audience of at least 500 people, is to focus attention on the Foreign Ministers meeting scheduled for October 27th and to stimulate activities for the demand that peaceful settlements be found for the issues which the foreign ministers will discuss.

As you will recall, it is two years since you have spoken in Chicago and people frequently express their great interest in having you speak here again. We will be delighted to have you and hope very much that you will be able to accept our invitation. The dates that we have in mind for the meeting are Saturday evening, October 15, or the following week, October 22. We would prefer the earlier date.

We will welcome your suggestions as to what subject matter in relation to the Foreign Ministers meeting you would like to discuss in your speech. Our thinking is that the role of the peoples of Asia and Africa, and the role of the American people, will be most important factors in these negotiations.

We hope that you would be able to spend two or three days in Chicago so that we could arrange other speaking dates for you with special groups, and possibly radio time. We will of course assume all expenses incurred.

Since we are eager to complete the plans for our meeting as soon as possible so as to have ample time for promotion, we will appreciate hearing from you as soon as conveniently possible.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy M. Hayes

Dorothy M. Hayes
Secretary

WE CANNOT WAIT FOR PEACE — WE MUST WIN IT

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE

ILLINOIS ASSEMBLY

166 WEST WASHINGTON STREET CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS RANDOLPH 6-5981

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PROF. MORRISON SHARP
DR. JEREMIAH STAMLER
MANDEL A. TERMAN
[redacted]
HAROLD WARD
PEARL B. WASHINGTON

42-17-9

August 26, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Since writing you yesterday about our meeting in October, we have found that the hall we feel is most suitable is not available until October 27th, a Thursday evening.

We would therefore prefer to have our meeting on that date, instead of October 15 or 22, and we hope very much that October 27th is a convenient date for you.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy M. Hayes

Dorothy M. Hayes
Secretary

WE CANNOT WAIT FOR PEACE — WE MUST WIN IT

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE

ILLINOIS ASSEMBLY
166 WEST WASHINGTON STREET CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS RANDOLPH 6-5981

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DR. JEREMIAH STAMLER
MANDEL A. TERMAN
[redacted]
HAROLD WARD
PEARL B. WASHINGTON

42-19-5

September 10, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

We are delighted that you will be the speaker at our meeting in October, and we hope you remain in good health.

Since writing you we have been able to obtain the meeting hall for Friday evening, October 28, and have changed the date of the meeting to that evening. It is a much better one to draw a large audience. We trust this change will not inconvenience you since you indicated you could be in Chicago over the week-end. We will certainly arrange one speaking engagement for you with an honorarium of $50 and will try to arrange a second one.

As to the subjects you suggest for your speech at the Friday evening meeting, we feel we should keep this meeting focused on the necessary steps to end the Cold War and progress toward peaceful co-existence. The second subject you suggest - "What Progressives Must Suffer Even When Peace and Freedom Return" - would seem to be the more appropriate for this meeting, but we are not at all sure we understand what content this title indicates. In discussing this at our Council meeting we certainly recognized that if the American people are going to accept peaceful co-existence they must accept the revolutionary movements that are going on in the world, whether they are for freedom from colonialism, a la socialism, and insist that their government cease interference in these movements. May we ask if this is something of the content in that title?

We do need too a somewhat shorter title for our ticket and announcement. Would you let us know if "Geneva and the Struggle for Freedom and Equality" would be appropriate? Since we need to get the ticket copy to the printer this week I am enclosing a self-addressed air mail letter for your reply and we will appreciate receiving this as soon as is convenient for you.

I will soon write you again about further arrangements for your visit here.

Sincerely yours,
Dorothy M. Hayes
Dorothy M. Hayes, Secretary

Dorothy M. Hayes

American Peace Crusade

166 W. Washington St.

Chicago 2, Ill

Friday october twenty-eight Will
Send me. & suggest as a subject
Geneva and Africa or if you prefer
Geneva and the
Struggle for
Freedom + Equality

WED 8 A

WA-2-7111

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE
37 ~~55~~ West 26th Street
New York 10, N. Y.
MU 4-8256

September 16, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, N.Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

We hope it will be possible for you to attend a combined meeting of the National Committee and the Resident Board of the A merican Peace Crusade to discuss the stand the Crusade will take in regard to its citation by SACB as a communist-front organization.

As our answer to SACB must be in Washington by October 1st, we have been forced to call this meeting on very short notice. It will be held on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 11 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., at Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Ave. at 13th St., Room 11 K.

The staff of the American Peace Crusade, in consultation with our attorney, Dr. Royal France, has come to the conclusion that the A.P.C. should dissolve and ask for a dismissal of the case.

Under separate cover I am mailing you a copy of the A ttorney-General's Petition and a copy of our draft resolution setting forth the reasons for seeking a dismissal of the case.

We plan to present the draft resolution to the National Committee and the Resident Board for thorough discussion and official action. The alternative - that of appearing before SACB - will also be discussed. We believe a full public statement of our position should be issued at the close of the meeting.

Your participation in this discussion is very important. However if it is impossible for you to be present, we would appreciate your writing us, special delivery, giving your opinions on this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Betty Haufrecht
Betty Haufrecht
Acting Administrative Secy.

P.S. Our new address is 37 W. 26 St. - Rm. 1409

WE CANNOT WAIT FOR PEACE — WE MUST WIN IT

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE

ILLINOIS ASSEMBLY

166 WEST WASHINGTON STREET CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS RANDOLPH 6-5981

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PROF. MORRISON SHARP
DR. JEREMIAH STAMLER
MANDEL A. TERMAN
[redacted]
HAROLD WARD
PEARL B. WASHINGTON

42-IA-4

September 24, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, 2, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Thank you for your telegram suggesting the very good, direct title "Geneva and Africa". We have used this on the tickets for the October 28th meeting, which are already in circulation.

I am writing you particularly at this time because, as you no doubt know, the American Peace Crusade is making the decision at a meeting of the National Committee this week-end whether to dissolve or to continue in view of the Attorney General's petition to the Subversive Activities Control Board. We want to assure you definitely that we plan to have the October 28th meeting and and are going ahead with all our arrangements and plans.

Our Chicago Council voted to support the resolution of the American Peace Crusade to dissolve, but felt very strongly that the work for peace must go on. A few volunteers therefore have agreed, should the Peace Crusade decide to dissolve, to set themselves up as a temporary committee to carry through the October 28th meeting and plans that have been made in connection with it. Already we find that the interest in the meeting is very good.

We will be in touch with you again shortly as our plans develop.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy M. Hayes

Dorothy M. Hayes

WE CANNOT WAIT FOR PEACE — WE MUST WIN IT

AMERICAN PEACE CRUSADE

ILLINOIS ASSEMBLY 166 WEST WASHINGTON STREET CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS RANDOLPH 6-5981

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PROF. MORRISON SHARP
DR. JEREMIAH STAMLER
MANDEL A. TERMAN
[redacted]
HAROLD WARD
PEARL B. WASHINGTON

9-11-24

September 28, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Can you send us a glossy print photograph of yourself for use in printing the announcement of the October 28th meeting?

We thought we had such a print on hand, but if we have we unforutnately can't find it. We will appreciate having this as soon as possible as we want to issue the announcements next week. We will re-imburse you for any expense incurred in getting this for us.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy M. Hayes

Dorothy M. Hayes
Secretary

1-22-55

Dear Dr. Dubois,

It sure has been a long time since I've written to you. How are you and Lizzy? We are all fine here. I am just writing this letter because I do miss you, and hope some time we can get together.

I am sure you remember Jackie and Mr. Peep. They are our Jakie is our dog, and Mr. Peep is our bird. I hope at one time or another we will be able to see each other.

Love, From

Bettina Appleberry

27-10-10

February 14, 1955

Miss Bettina Aptheker
1015 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, New York

My dear Bettina:

When people are as busy as you and I, it does take some time to get letters started and answered.

Let me say first that I appreciate very much your letter of January 22nd, which I have read with interest. Since then we have seen each other at the concert, and I hope now that you are back busily engaged in your studies.

Please give my best regards first, to your mother and father, and then to Jackie and Mr. Puss (if I got his name right). I hope they are thriving.

Yours with love,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-10-9

[Aptheker, Bettina]

42-14-88

Oct. 25, 1955
Miss Bettina Aptheker
1015 Washington Ave.
Brooklyn 25, New York

W. E. B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Du Bois,

The last letter I recieved from you was dated back to Feb. 14, 1955. And I am ~~not~~ wondering how you are feeling, and how your work is coming along. How is Shirly? Do, send my regards to her.

About 3 weeks ago I went to the Brooklyn Public Library where I saw Shirlys book, Paul Robeson which is really wonderful, and the pictures are amazingly, well photographed.

Hope I hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Bettina Aptheker

P. S. I would appreciate it if you could send me your phone Numbers "Thankyou"

turn over.

121 ~~[illegible]~~ words "Most I have ever written in a letter."!

January 26, 1955

Dr. Herbert Aptheker
Masses and Mainstream
832 Broadway
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Aptheker:

Thank you so much for your pamphlet on the Labor Movement in the South during slavery.

I have read it with interest.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-10-8

Lugano.

My dear Dr. Du Bois

In a few days I will be back in Hamburg & leave almost at once for London. I hope to be there on the 12th inst. as I have no time to lose. It was a wonderful trip with my Father but now my worries begin again. Wish me luck, dear Friend! I remember my interview last summer with Mr. Mercer (High Commissioner) which seemed to be promising and yet nothing happened. Before leaving Hamburg I had a kind note from Mr. Balfe

27-10-99

[Armattoe]

POSTKARTE CARTE POSTALE CARTOLINA POSTALE

U. S. A.

Dr. W. E. DuBois,
23 West 26th St.,
New York 10, N. Y.

enclosing some forms for
Spirit of Pan-Af. Congress.
I will see him here & invite to join
at once.

Again many sincere thanks &
with best wishes,
Yours
Marion Phillips

February 16, 1955

Mrs. M. Armattoe
22 Sedanski
Hamburg, Germany

Dear Mrs. Armattoe:

I have your letter of February 12, from Hamburg. I regret that I have not received your letter of May 8th, 1954.

I wrote you after the death of your husband, addressing the letter to Eire, but had no reply.

I had tried to get in touch with Dr. Armattoe when he was here attending the United Nations meeting, but did not succeed.

I am deeply pained to hear of your plight and do not know of any way in which I can help, but I am attempting two things. First, I am sending a copy of your letter to Mrs. Ragosin where you stayed in 1949. Whether she can do anything or not I do not know.

Secondly, I am writing Mr. George Padmore, 22 Cranleigh House, Cranleigh Street, London N.W. 1, England. Padmore is closely acquainted with Nkrumah and other leaders on the Gold Coast. I will ask him to appeal to Nkrumah but I understand that your husband did not see eye to eye with Nkrumah and it may not be possible to induce him to take any steps, but I will try.

I would be glad if you would keep in touch with me and let me know where you are so that if there is any possibility of helping you I can make the attempt.

Yours with love,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

Amalia

22 Sedanstr.
Hamburg.
22nd. 3. 33.

27-10-101

My dear Dr. Du Bois,

I just had a long talk with the Director of the Bremen Mission who advised me, to write once more to you. He thought that, if an appeal for my children would be organised in the various negro press in the U.S.A. people would freely contribute. as the Americans are known to be generous & to have lots of heart. It showed it again, when the whole nation took an interest in the blind couple's baby. Perhaps by writing a short article, giving family details: Louise at a boarding school in Dublin, Doctor died in Hamburg, I heard the news on the radio in the cold coast where I was with Karin, help to sustain us was promised & up to this day not a penny has come forward. No home in Europe a cent would be a God's sent. I feel I take too much advantage to bother you, Dr. Du Bois, but your great name would certainly help. Believe me, it isn't easy for me to appeal to anyone & yet, there seems to be no other way out. So forgive me, please.

2/

perhaps the precious dollars could be sent to the Manager of the Belfast Bank, Londonderry or to you, just what you would think better. Next week I'll go to Bonn to have a talk with the Irish Minister & then at all costs I'll head for Dublin, trying to make a small home for us, see that the children go to a proper school & then hope, almost against hope, to find some work thus being able to support us. It isn't easy once one is over 40 but one can always try & hope.

27-10-1922

To day I am a very bitter woman. I will soon be in London & wanted to ask your opinion if I ought to call on your friend George Padmore? Armattoe was against Nkrumah. Every country has an Opposition & I cannot see, that I & his children should be victims of my late husband's nationalism. This seems unbelievable as we all are Gold Coast citizens, however Africa is a strange continent & sorry to say, they won't be ready for a long time to govern themselves.

Thank you also for writing to the Ragusins who were sent alarming letters. However, many people do clarify their minds when names are given publicity & in my case alas! this won't be the case.

Please don't forget us & accept my most sincere greetings

Yours [illegible]

March 23, 1955

Mrs. Armattoe
22 Sedanski
Hamburg, Germany

Dear Mrs. Armattoe:

I have been corresponding in your behalf with various friends. I have not much to report, but a little.

There is, it seems, no question of any legal right on your part to demand compensation or pension. Dr. Armattoe was working in opposition to the present leaders, and no matter how justified he may have called himself, still his actions did not constitute a just ground for complaint.

However, I am assured that the rulers of the Gold Coast are sympathetic with you and are willing to do something however little for you and the children. Without mentioning me, will you write to: Mr. Asu Mate, Welfare Officer, Gold Coast Commissioner Office, Melbourne House, Aldwych, London W.C. 2, England. I am told that he will arrange a job for you either in London or on the Gold Coast, provided you are able to use a typewriting machine or have some clerical qualifications. The children in that case will be educated free up to the university grade.

27-10-98

The government, however, cannot send you any funds without an act of Parliament, which it would be useless to ask for. Mr. Asu Mate is son of the late Paramount Chief, Sir Asu Mate, and is in charge of the welfare of Gold Coast students in England, of whom there are over a thousand, in addition to 50 in German universities. All are supported by Nkrumah's government.

I certainly hope that this advice will be of some use to you.

Mrs. Du Bois and I join in best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

March 29, 1955

Mrs. Marina Armattoe
22 Sedanski
Hamburg, Germany

Dear Mrs. Armattoe:

The Director of the Bremen Mission is quite mistaken. There are certain causes to which Americans give largely if proper influence is brought to bear. But your case is one to which they would give nothing.

Since the institution of African slavery in the United States, and despite its abolition, all cases of intermarriage between black and white, either in this country or elsewhere, is frowned upon, and it would not be possible to raise 10¢ for you and your children by public appeal. On this point there is not the slightest doubt.

I trust that by this time you have received my letter and I would advise you by all means to see George Padmore.

Do not waste time being bitter. This is a bitter world but we have got to live in it, and things are not usually quite as bad as we fear.

I think there is much hope in your case.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-15-7

[Armattoe] 22 Selandsk Hamburg
1st April, 55.

My dear Dr. Du Bois,

I am on my way to Bonn for some important discussions with the Irish Minister. Prior to my departure, I received your charming letter for which I thank you most sincerely. How I wish my husband could know about the true friendship you offer me. Believe me, dear Dr. Du Bois, I do appreciate it very much & I thank you most sincerely for your kindness in helping me. I've written, without mentioning your name, to Mr. Mate in London & am ready to interview him in London as I do believe in personal contacts and will see what he suggests. I have no clerical qualification having specialist in modern languages, but perhaps there might be a possibility to put me in charge of a hostel or something similar. If the children's future is secure, this already is an immense help, as I worry & live for them alone.

I have no intention to cause Parliamentary charges etc. Perhaps you don't see my point of view: Armattoe was sent* to offer oral evidence supporting their petitions (+ by the Ewes) & I have their signed Mandate & my claim is towards them. He is strong & sincere nationalist he was, and always has been, anti English and yet,

27-10-103

2

I have some English friends who are more than enthusiastic about the Africans although towards Mr. Chamberlain's name will live forever, he has rightly been acclaimed the greatest African whose knowledge is unmatched, the empress Haggard naturally resented who feared him a lot. His death was not natural, thus my feelings are naturally very bitter.

My dear Dr. Du Bois, please accept my hearty thanks & God's blessing. I am very proud having met you, also only a very short time, and you will certainly hear from me after my interview.

To you and Mrs. Du Bois, a very happy Easter & thousand thanks, dear friend.

Very sincerely yours,

Mamina Kenyatta.

27-10-104

La Chaux-de-Fonds,
17th IV. 55.

My dear Dr. Du Bois,

Your charming letter of last month has been forwarded to me. I cannot tell you over & over again, how very proud I am to have known you personally. Thanks a lot for all your good advice & help. After a short trip to Italy, I will return to Hamburg & then proceed to London & see your friends. P.S. Your letter gave me a great deal to think as during the 18 years I had known Chandler I've never had the feeling that anybody frowned upon me because of inter-marriage.

27-10-108

GLION Le Temple et les Dents du Midi

[Armattoe]

10 HELVETIA

POSTKARTE CARTE POSTALE CARTOLINA POSTALE

Everybody regretted his
visit & invited us all to
his character but I suppose
Prince Rafi's one more reason
to keep my children in
France as long as I stay in
Switzerland. All the best
to you friend & many thanks.

M. S. A.

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
23 West 26th St.,
New York 10, N. Y.

22 Sedanstr.
Hamburg.
12. 2. 55.

[Armattoe]

[1]

[5] My dear Dr. Du Bois,

Although I had no reply from you to my letter written on May 8th '54 I take the courage to write again, hoping that you still enjoy good health.

I am in big a muddle as ever. It is a year to day, since I left the Gold Coast with plenty of promises, alas vain ones! to be given financial assistance until the children come of age. I had no reason to doubt my late husband's

27-10-106

countrymen who definitely owe
a lot to Dr. Smallbone.

I have now my two daughters aged
6 & 12 and I am unable to make
them a home. This condition has and
still is a terrible strain on all of
us and but for financial help from
my Father who is like yourself over 80
I really don't dare to think what would
have happened to all of us.

It took me months to get over
the loss of such an unexpected death &
now I'm living desperately to my children.
Russia's drinks are still in Ireland

where she was at a boarding school;
my cases are stored in the Lehrerin
Lese in Germany, not knowing where
to go; we live as to speak from
suitcase & have to leave in 6 weeks.
Where to?

On Doctor's first anniversary, 21st Dec.
the African papers were full with praises.
They want to observe that date every year
& friends were asked to put candles in
front of their windows and all christian
churches gave services for their great
patriot. There was to be a collection
for us, but nobody organised anything,

so that was off.

I've been asked to write my husband's biography but how on earth could I collect myself & concentrate under such difficult position? I know that my late husband had many friends in the U.S.A. who perhaps would be willing to put me again on my feet as I have lost self confidance. I want to return to live, make a home & devote myself for my children & maybe I find some work to make ends meet.

Doctor's last poems are published: "Deep down the Blackman's Mind" à 7.6 by Stockwell in Ilfracombe/Devonsh. Engl. & if it could be found in every negro's home / like Hitler's "Mein Kampf!") I daresay my worries would be over for some years.

Please excuse my frankness. I really would like to come over & speak personally to you; it would have been much easier. All my heartiest wishes,

Yours sincerely,

[5] My dear Sir. Sir,

[Armathoe]

[1]

I should like to ask you whether you do not consider it time to make some arrangements for the future of Miss Armathoe. She is now 21 years old & has been with me for 12 years. I am in a middle position. It is a pity that she should not have a good start in life & I should like to know what you think.

27-10-106

Yours truly,

Adamson.

12, Lansdowne Terrace,
Gordon Square.

COPY

22 Sedanski
Hamburg
12.2.55

My dear Dr. DuBois:

Although I had no reply from you to my letter written on May 8th, 1954 I take the courage to write again, hoping that you still enjoy good health.

I am in big a muddle as ever. It is a year today, since I left the Gold Coast with plenty of promises, alas vain ones! to be given financial assistance until the children come of age. I had no reason to doubt my late husband's countrymen who definitely owe a lot to Dr. Armettoe.

I have now my two daughters aged 6 and 12 and I am unable to make them a home. This condition has and still is, a terrible strain on all of us and but for financial help from my father who is like yourself, over 80 I really don't dare to think what would have happened to all of us.

It took me months to get over the shock of such an unexpected death and now I cling desperately to my children. Brusia's trunks are still in Ireland where she was at boarding school; my cases are stored in the harbour here in Germany, not knowing where to go; we live so to speak from suitcase and have to leave in 5 weeks. Where to?

On Doctor's first anniversary, 21st Dec. the African papers were full with praises; they want to observe that date every year and friends were asked to put candles in front of their windows and all Christian churches gave services for their great patriot. There was to be a collection for us, but nobody organised anything, so that was off.

I've been asked to write my husband's biography but how on earth could I collect myself and concentrate under such difficult position? I know that my late husband had many friends in the U.S.A. who perhaps would be willing to put me again on my feet as I have lost self-confidence. I want to return to Eire, make a home and devote myself for my children and maybe to find some work to make ends meet.

Doctor's last poems are published: "Deep Down the Blackman's Mind" 4 g.c. by Stockwell in Ilfrancombe, Devonshire, England, and if it could be found in every Negro's home (like Hitler's Mein Kampf!) I daresay my worries would be over for some years.

Please excuse my frankness. I really would love to come over and speak personally to you; it would have been much easier. All my heartiest wishes,

(signed) Marina Armattoe

87-10-107

[Aronson]

WEEKLY GUARDIAN ASSOCIATES, Inc.

17 MURRAY STREET • NEW YORK 7, NEW YORK • WOrth 4-3960

November 23, 1955

Dear Dr. DuBois:

After meeting with you and Clif McAvoy yesterday I suggested to my co-sponsors of the Debs meeting the idea which we agreed on at your office and found that it was unacceptable to all three.* Feeling that I had done as much as I could I have suggested to the petitioners that they discuss the matter further, if they wished, directly with Huberman, Stone and the American Socialist people.

42-5C-15

I am writing to tell you this since you have become indirectly involved and I would like to make it clear that my position coincides with yours. I appreciate the reasons for Dr. Wilkerson's visit to you and I hope that you will inform him of my sentiments when you see him next. Like you I have a deep respect for his opinions.

In any case I am sure the meeting will be a most successful one and I sincerely hope that all hands will draw a lesson from the preliminaries.

Sincerely yours,

James Aronson

JA:V JamesAronson

[* That Trachtenberg or Aptheker be invited from the audience to come to the platform for a few remarks]

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
23 W. 26th Street
New York 10, N.Y.

413

ASSOCIATED AUTHORS

P.O. BOX 274
COOPER STATION
NEW YORK, N.Y.

April 13, 1955

W.E.B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Du Bois:

We are sending you under separate cover a copy of Dr. Bernard Mandel's "Labor: Free and Slave," which our cooperative publishing venture has just put out.

I have talked to James Aronson of the National Guardian about a review of the book in that paper and he suggested your name. He will undoubtedly get in touch with you independently.

However, I did want to say one word on our own to you, how much we would consider it an honor if you would undertake to review this book for us in the Guardian. We are well aware of the fact that you are tremendously occupied with your own projects but feel that this is a book that you would want to know about anyway; hence, we are not as reluctant as we might be to approach you about it.

27-17-33

Doxey Wilkerson has praised it highly, having read it in the manuscript, and Eugene Gordon, who is a member of our Associated Authors, was the first one to recognize the book's great value and who thereafter pressed strongly for its publication.

The enclosures will give you somewhat more idea of the book and our organization. Thank you so much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Henry Kraus

Henry Kraus

April 22, 1955

Mr. Henry Kraus
Associated Authors
P.O. Box 274
Cooper Station
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kraus:

Thank you for the copy of Dr. Bernard Mandel's book, LABOR: FREE AND SLAVE.

The Guardian has asked me to review it, and I have sent the enclosed answer.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

277-17-34

[ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY]

Central State College

CHARLES H. WESLEY, PRESIDENT
WILBERFORCE, OHIO

October 26, 1955

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. W. E. Burghardt DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

42-IA-132

Dear Dr. DuBois:

I have been talking to George Murphy of Washington. He informs me that you have a manuscript, the first part of which is a complete novel, and that you are interested in finding a publisher for it. Since the passing of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, I have been endeavoring to give some leadership to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and to the Associated Publishers, and to place them upon less precarious financial foundations than the ones on which we found them in 1950. We have been having some successes in this respect.

We are at the place now where we can begin to plan on a small scale for publication. We have just sent to the press a new edition of Jane D. Shackelford's "A Child's Story of the Negro." George Murphy has aroused my interest in your most recent manuscript, and it took very little to accomplish this purpose, as I have always been enthusiastic about your writings. Costs are always important factors to publishers, and we cannot be different, if we plan to stay in business. This policy has now led the Association to the place where the Journal of Negro History and the Negro History Bulletin are self-supporting.

The purpose of this letter is to state that I would be pleased to have you forward your manuscript to me as President of the Association and I will pass it along to Dr. Wm. Brewer, who is the Editor of the Journal of Negro History, and to Mr. Albert N. D. Brooks, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for reading, so that we would be in position to undertake some official action which may lead to the suggestion of a contract for publication. I believe that this will be the first step that should be taken in this matter, and I would be pleased to hear from you in this connection.

With cordial personal regards to you and Mrs. DuBois, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Wesley

CHW:gll

[Association cr.]

The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Incorporated

FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 9, 1915, BY CARTER G. WOODSON

THE JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY
AND
THE NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN
1538 NINTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

November 10, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

42-1A-108

I have received the manuscript of your historic novel, "The Black Mansarts". I like it very much and was gripped by many passages. Congratulations! I am sending it on to the Association office for reading and for further processing as to cost of publication in order to determine whether we can publish it with our present budget limitations.

With cordial regards to you and yours, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Wesley

CHW/alh

P.S. By the way, on Page 33 Eslanda Robeson is listed as a daughter of Cordozo. I think that she is the granddaughter. I recall that some years ago she talked with me about the three Eslandas, including herself as one.

C. H. W.

THE ATLANTA CITIZENS COMMITTEE

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
TO AN EVENING HONORING

DR. L. D. REDDICK

WHO IS LEAVING ATLANTA
TO JOIN THE FACULTY OF ALABAMA
STATE COLLEGE

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1955
9:00 - 11:00 P. M.

THE WALUHAJE—239 WEST LAKE AVE., N.W.

REFRESHMENTS

CITIZENS COMMITTEE

W. H. Aiken, Dr. Miles Amos, J. T. Bickers, Dr. R. A. Billings, J. B. Blayton, Jr., William Fowlkes, William Gordon, Mrs. Geneva Haugabrooks, Frank McClarin, R. O. Sutton, J. R. Wilson, Jr., A. T. Walden and Rev. Samuel W. Williams.

Dr DuBois,

It would be great if you could come. Since this is unlikely, please send a short statement that can be read that nite, anything that you might wish to say about me as a scholar or about academic freedom - or anything else - would be very much appreciated.

Send the message to Ed Conn - Chas W. H. Aiken, Chairman, Walthoze - address on the other side of this card.

Regard, J. D. R.

[Reddick]

Dwight Deller

W. H. Aiken
of the Walthall
239 West Lake, Ave., N.W
Atlanta, Ga

Let me congratulate the citizens of Atlanta and the Atlanta State College on doing honor to a scholar & a gentleman in the person of Dr Lawrence D. Reddick

W.E.B. DuBois

42-IA-75

[Atlanta Univ.]

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
Atlanta, Georgia

Office of the President

February 17, 1955

Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick
Library
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Doctor Reddick:

As you will recall, about ten months ago I talked with you concerning what I felt to be your inadequacies as our University Librarian. Following our conversation, I told you in my letter of April 21, 1954, two things: (1) that I would not recommend to the Board of Trustees that you be given permanent status, and (2) that unless our doubts concerning your administration of the Library were removed, I would be unable to recommend a continuation of your relationship with the University beyond June 1, 1955.

I think you must know that during all of the period since our April, 1954, conversation I have given careful and continued consideration to our Library situation. I regret to say to you now that I do not feel that such improvements have been made as would warrant our continuing to make use of your services. Consequently, I am offering you the opportunity of resigning your position at Atlanta University as of such date found to be satisfactory to you but prior to September 1, 1955. Should you be unwilling to do this, I regret further to have to inform you that the University will not employ you beyond said date - September 1, 1955.

You must know that I have not made this decision lightly or quickly or with any malice. I have had to put the interests of the University first, and I have with great reluctance come to the conclusion that this is the best way for us to resolve our Library problems.

If you wish to discuss this matter with me, I will most assuredly see you at any time which is mutually convenient.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ RUFUS E. CLEMENT

REC.C

[Atlanta Univ.]

TREVOR ARNETT LIBRARY
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
273 CHESTNUT STREET, S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

March 1, 1955

Dear Dr. Clement:

Your letter of February 17, 1955 has already caused me considerable pain and it seems likely that there will be more pain down the road if you force a course of action that I trust can be avoided.

Without specifying, you charge "inadequacies" in my administration of the Library and then go on to threaten dire consequences. Nothing definitely wrong is stated in this letter but in it you refer to inadequacies that were stated in another letter ten months ago and that "improvements" have not been made since then. This would appear to be deliberate vagueness. But let us take a look at the original charges.

On April 20, 1954, for the first time since I had been at Atlanta University, you called me in to complain about my work here. It was a complete surprise. As I listened to you, I began to feel that perhaps something untoward had disturbed you and that all might be well again the next day. However, on the next day, I got from you the most horrible letter that I have ever received in my life. You repeated the charges that had been made verbally on the previous day, adding the threat to discharge me from the University.

I suspected but had no way of knowing then that this was a letter "for the record"; one that could be quoted from in the future, if it would be useful to do so.

In this letter of May 21, 1954 you made five charges:

I. CHARGE - That I was not intelligent enough to understand the Library needs of the Atlanta University Center.

ANSWER - This would appear to be an arrogant and absurb judgment on anybody's part, for the Atlanta University situation is comparatively simple. Each year I explain it to our new students. Moreover, for nine years I operated a division of the vastly more complicated New York Public Library and then, after coming to Atlanta, for five years, apparently I understood the situation here very well.

II. CHARGE - I had not made the University Library an "excellent" model Library for our Library School students.

ANSWER - It is easy enough to make a model library of the most modern type, if the funds are available for equipment and staff. You have told me time and time again when I asked for staff additions, equipment, etc., that the University simply does not have the money to pay for such expansion and modernization.

III. CHARGE - That I permitted slipshod administrative practices to exist in the Library.

ANSWER - This is a thoroughly unfair generalization. You have brought to my attention only two administrative errors that I have made since I have been here. I would be more fortunate than most of us if I have made no more than these two errors in the past seven years. These two mistakes for which I take full responsibility were: (1) permitting a bill for Library of Congress Catalog Cards to exceed the limit of our standing account with the Library of Congress; (2) during the Christmas holidays, when we were operating the Library on a skeleton schedule, you called me at home one night to report that you found the front door of the Library building unlocked. Since I was on vacation and the custodial staff is under the supervision of the Superintendent of Buildings, I had no way of knowing that one of our custodians had quit and that the other was ill. Nevertheless, I will take responsibility for these shortcomings.

IV. CHARGE - That "a number of persons feel" that I spend a great deal of time off the campus.

ANSWER - This is simply not true. (I wonder who these nameless persons are?) Aside from the weekly luncheons of the Hungry Club, which add an extra half hour to the lunch period on Wednesday, I have very few day-time civic or social interests. I work five and a half days each week and am almost never ill. Incidentally, during the summer of 1953 I did not get a vacation at all because it was inconvenient for me to take it at the time that you suggested.

V. CHARGE - That I do not take my work seriously.

ANSWER - Since I was a child I have been credited with having a pleasant manner. However, nobody else has ever implied that I was frivolous or indifferent to responsibility. On the contrary, I have been praised by

> many persons for success in getting a great deal of work out of my staff by treating them as human beings and by inspiring them to operate as a winning team rather than driving them as slaves or policing them as irresponsibles.

In a sense, your attacks on my intelligence and on my personality were insulting. However, I let that pass and patiently answered these charges in my letter to you of April 22, 1954.

Moreover, as a positive measure to avoid any further misunderstanding I sent you a copy of my Library schedule and suggested that you and I have regular, weekly conferences in order to discuss any Library problems that might arise. You turned down this proposal, giving the excuse that you were very busy and often out of town. I honestly believe that you would have never written your letter of February 17, 1955, if we had had some such normal get-togethers, to talk things over regularly.

Since you made no further comments or ever mentioned the charges again, I assumed that my answers had been satisfactory. Now, ten months later, you come back again, saying that no sufficient improvement has been made in what you term my "inadequacies."

I do not know just how I can improve my intelligence or powers of understanding the library needs of the Atlanta University Center. And yet, you recall that I did propose that we set up a committee of librarians of the under-graduate colleges of the Center and the University for the very purpose of working toward a more integrated Library system here. You vetoed the plan. We librarians could work out a splendid system, if we but had the authority and the money to do the job. It is not a question of understanding but mainly one of finance.

Furthermore, I cut down the number of my Hungry Club visits. I assumed a slightly more grave manner and turned down ninety per cent of the out-of-town speaking engagements that were offered to me. All this, of course, was beyond the normal call of duty but I did it in an extraordinary effort to re-assure you.

I thought that I had succeeded, for during the past year you have complained to me only about the two types of occurrences that have been mentioned above - the Library of Congress bill and leaving the Library door unlocked. These are the only specific complaints that I have received from you. If other things were wrong and you were sincerely interested in getting them righted, there was ample opportunity for you to call me in and discuss them. This might have been, also, a good example for a senior administrator to give to a junior administrator.

Let us be frank about it. There is no real case against my mental or administrative competence and you know it. The evidence is conclusive, however, that the real cause of the present difficulty goes back to the days when a member of your family began working in the Library.

I came to Atlanta University on April 1, 1948 at your invitation. For the first five years of my stay here, all went well. You praised my work, gave me three successive raises in pay and cooperated, within the limits of financial resources, with my efforts to build up the Library. Apparently, I had your confidence. Your attitude was friend[illegible].

Then something happened. In February, 1953, a member of your family came to work in the Library. Then my troubles began. During '52 and '53 several of our staff members took maternity leaves. We were thus often shorthanded. I was, at first, reluctant to hire the wife of the President but she always seemed to know when we were about to have a vacancy on our staff. I took this to mean that you wanted her to have a job. She had her Library School degree and I could lay hands on no other Librarian at the time. So, I submitted her application to your office and you approved it.

At first, she was willing to do anything and readily accepted the $175 a month salary as an assistant librarian. Later, after she was firmly established, a change was noticeable. She vigorously pushed for a salary increase. I submitted the request to you and it was approved.

Even before Mrs. Clement joined our staff, I talked with her about the difficulty that the wife of the President might have in behaving as an ordinary member of the staff while at work here. In the beginning, she tried hard to make this transition but habitual ways of conduct soon asserted themselves. She was only an assistant librarian but she would tell senior librarians what to do. If she noticed somebody - my secretary for example - not typing at the moment, she could not see why the secretary could not do the inter-library loan correspondence for her (Mrs. Clement).

She soon developed an unusual interest in the assignments of the other staff members, when their "off-days" came, when they were due at work, when they were out ill and so forth and so on. As a result, the members of the staff began to feel that she was watching them. Mrs. Clement sensed this and came in to see me about it. She said that the other staff members did not "accept" her but would stop talking and melt away whenever she came upon several of them together. I tried to explain, as gently as I could, their reactions, urged her to concentrate upon her own duties and made several other suggestions along the line of winning friends. She cried but thanked me before she left.

On several occasions Mrs. Clement forgot herself completely. One example may illustrate the point. The student assistants who work in the Library usually give a party for themselves each year. They get permission to use the Staff Lounge for this. We assign a couple of staff members to serve as chaperons and the group usually dances and eats cake and drinks coca-colas. These are orderly parties. On this particular evening, Mrs. Clement heard music coming up from the staff lounge as she was leaving the Library. She investigated and found the party going on. Indignantly, she stopped the dancing, saying that she

did not believe that the President would approve. You can imagine how embarrassing this was to everyone - particularly to the three members of the staff who were there officially supervising the affair!

Of course, when I heard about this the next morning I had to take action. I called Mrs. Clement in and, once more, as gently as possible, explained to her how wrong she was. Again she cried!

News of this sort does spread and there was some "kidding" on the campus that she, not I, was the real head of the Library.

Mrs. Clement was also dissatisfied with the cleanliness of the building. She judged it by the standards of a private home. I explained to the staff that we, naturally, wanted our building thoroughly clean but that a much used "public" building can seldom be kept up in the same way as one's own home. I added that for the type of elderly persons that we get for maids and janitors that a fairly good job of cleaning was being done. I urged the staff to report to me any untidiness that they saw and I would contact the Superintendent of Buildings or our cleaning personnel directly. This should have ended the matter but it did not. Some time later, I discovered that Mrs. Clement had been secretly by-passing me, constantly giving orders for the cleaning of this or that part of the Library.

Mrs. Clement, of course, was not deliberately "spying" or "bossing." Her original impulse was good. She is intensely loyal to you. She identifies you and the University completely. Thus, if a staff member should leave five minutes before he should, she looks upon that as stealing that much time from you. If the Library building is not spotlessly clean, she sees that as misrepresenting you, personally and officially.

She did not understand me at all. Even when I worry, I try not to show it. She could not understand that I was, apparently, not alarmed that the building was not as clean as a home and that staff members sometimes talked a little too much. Moreover, she did not realize that I judge my workers on the basis of their production and that there are objective standards of determining this; not merely the surface appearance of continuous activity - which can be faked. Incidentally, Mrs. Clement was one of the least productive of our workers. Furthermore, I believe that unless an administrator can win the interest and support of his staff, nothing creative can be done. The only way you can "make " people work is to stand watch over them.

And so, out of her misguided feelings of loyalty to you, her sense of rejection by the staff and her super-perfectionist notions, she mis-read the Library situation completely.

It was natural that a person going home would talk about the day at work. Little comments and questions from day to day add up. Sometimes Mrs. Clement betrayed to us that she had said certain things to you - many of them completely out of context. Mrs. Clement revealed that she urged you to visit the Library more often and to see about things. But what can one do in such a situation? Can you say to a wife that she is not to talk to her husband when she gets home?

A man will often resist opinions of his wife for a long time but after a while he may accept them and never remember the day when he ceased to disagree with her. Once the seeds of suspicion have been planted, things go from bad to worse. A President cannot be everywhere at once. He has to be out of town a great deal. So that if he comes to believe that things are not right in certain quarters, when he actually sees one or two things wrong, quite naturally, he reasons that there must be many other things wrong that he was not there to see. Obviously, some things will go wrong some time in every institution and if someone is looking for mistakes, he certainly will be able to find examples to confirm his suspicions.

I think it is fair to say that if Mrs. Clement had never worked for the Library I would not have the present difficulty with you today. As sympathetic as we are with the frustrations of an individual, it is unforgivable that she, because of her special position, should bring such harm and hurt to the Library generally and to me personally.

The Library has always had some problems and as a human institution, always will have some problems. Before February, 1953, the President of the University seemed to have been sympathetic. He associated himself with the point of view of the Library administration and would help work out these problems. On the other hand, soon after February, 1953, there arose a hostile chill from the office of the President; the attitude became much less sympathetic; and, at times, it would seem that there was an effort to catch us in some error. The disposition of the President's office, of course, makes all the difference in the world in solving the problem of any unit of the University.

We do have a good Library staff. On the basis of the modest salaries that we are able to pay, (way below the standards of the American Library Association), we are fortunate that we have been able to keep some of them as long as we have. It is true that our staff members at times do little things that they should not do but they are human beings and in all of the offices and libraries that I have ever seen, staff members now and then cut a few corners. Nobody knows how often this staff works overtime and willingly helps out in emergencies.

We run a good Library over here and we are most conscious of our weaknesses. We use student assistants at some of our service desks from time to time not because we do not know any better but only

because we cannot get the money from the University to employ enough trained librarians to cover all desks at all periods.

Despite it all, the Library is one of the most flourishing areas of university life. We have made great progress in stimulating reading and study and in building up cooperation among the colleges and the graduate schools that we serve. The real problems of the University - half empty dormitories, a declining student enrollment, some departments with more teachers than students and generally low morale among the few students that we do have - are not library problems.

Accordingly, I urge you, sir, that you withdraw your letter of February 17, 1955; that an impartial committee from the Trustees or the faculty or of outside librarians be asked to examine my administration of the Library. This would take the question of my so-called inadequacies completely out of the realm of subjective and perhaps unconscious prejudice on your part or my part. I have nothing to hide. I welcome an honest investigation.

It is my hope that we will be spared a sickening "mess" and that we can come together once again, working hard and faithfully for the best interests of the University.

Sincerely yours,

L. D. Reddick

LDR/mf

Dr. Rufus E. Clement
President
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia

[Atlanta Univ.]

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
Atlanta, Georgia

Office of the President

March 2, 1955

Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick
Librarian
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Doctor Reddick:

Your letter of March 1, 1955 - in reply to my letter of February 17 - reveals, among other things, such a total lack of understanding of events that I doubt seriously that you will appreciate all that I shall briefly attempt to say to you in this letter.

If you had remembered by letter of June 14, 1949, you would have understood why I waited until April 20, 1954, to review with you your services at Atlanta University. In 1949 I informed you that you had been appointed Librarian for five years. In 1954 it was my duty to review your work and to decide the future relationship between you and Atlanta University. When we talked on April 20, I was quite frank in pointing out your shortcomings. I had arrived at my judgment of your work through personal observation, through conversations with other administrative officers of the University, and from appraisals which had been voluntarily given to me by professional visitors who were in a position to judge what a good library should be. I had hoped that I was giving you a sympathetic appraisal of your work. I told you that what happened during the following twelve months would determine your future as the Atlanta University Librarian.

On April 21, 1954, I sent you a letter covering our conversation of April 20. Let me quote from your letter of April 22, 1954, giving me your reaction to my statement about your relationship to the University: "As for my employment relation with the University, that is mainly up to the University. I have not asked for permanent tenure and can not think of any job in the world that I would want to retain against the wishes of the employer."

I am not going to attempt a long letter in refutation of some of the absurd charges your letter of March 1, 1955 contains. Before I made the decision transmitted to you in my letter of February 17, 1955, I reviewed your case carefully. I talked with a number of University officers. I found that they were in agreement with respect to the type of administration you had given us, and there was unanimous feeling that we needed a change in University Librarian.

I can not fail to note several veiled threats in your intemperate letter of March 1, 1955. I have given you an opportunity to seek other work quietly and to resign your present position before September 1, 1955. If, in my opinion, the situation at our University Library begins to degenerate further, or if a "sickening mess" - as you denominate it - begins to take shape, I am sure you realize that we will not permit you to continue with the University as long as my letter of February 17 suggests.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ RUFUS E. CLEMENT

REC.C

[Atlanta Univ.]

TREVOR ARNETT LIBRARY
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
273 CHESTNUT STREET, S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

March 3, 1955

Dear Dr. Clement:

In response to your letter of March 2, 1955, please let me, for the second time, urge that we ask an impartial committee to examine my administration of the Library. As students of history, we both know how unfair it is to have charges made by un-named accusers, behind closed doors. At the least, I should have the particular complaints before me and should have a chance to present my side of the story. What objection could there be to a fair and objective appraisal of my work here?

This committee could be composed of local members of the Board of Trustees or members of our faculty or a small committee of librarians from the outside.

I am, therefore, formally petitioning you as President of the University that such a committee be named and asked to begin work immediately. As you realize, this would give it time to complete its investigation prior to the April meeting of the Board.

Sincerely yours,

L. D. Reddick

LDR/mf

Dr. Rufus E. Clement
President
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia

P. S. Today happens to be my birthday. What a way to celebrate a birthday!

[Atlanta Univ.]

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
Atlanta, Georgia

Office of the President

March 4, 1955

Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick
Librarian
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. Reddick:

In reply to your letter of March 3 please let me say again and finally that I, as President of the University, have decided - after fair and impartial examination and review of your work as Librarian - that you will not be retained as University Librarian beyond September 1, 1955. You may resign at any time prior to that date and your resignation will be accepted.

You are not a person on tenure, and I will not appoint a committee of Trustees, faculty or any other group to review your administration of the Library.

Yours very truly,

/s/ RUFUS E. CLEMENT

REC.C

[Atlanta Univ.]

TREVOR ARNETT LIBRARY
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
273 CHESTNUT STREET, S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

March 18, 1955

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Please forgive me for not answering your letter of February 15 sooner. It appears that your ex-friend, the President of this institution, and I are headed for a collision. And so, I have had to work on that a little. More on that later.

I was over to Fisk and spoke with both the President and our friend. I think that things have gone so far that it is impossible to patch them up in any way. Our best bet is to look for something new and I have made one or two overtures in that direction.

By all means send me a copy of your Suppression of the African Slave Trade. I should be delighted if you would write something in it for me.

The times are tough but I am sure that at least you and I will never go to pieces.

Sincerely yours,

L. D. Reddick
Chief.

LDR/mf

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, New York

[Atlanta Univ.]

To: The Chairman and members of the Atlanta University Senate.

Dear Colleagues:

It is customary for us to circulate memoranda a few days prior to our Senate meetings in order that we may have a chance to study proposals that require more than passing attention. Accordingly, I am herewith submitting two questions that I trust the Senate will answer at its forthcoming meeting, March 23.

A few days ago, I was completely amazed when I received a letter from the President of the University threatening to discharge me from the University, if I did not, myself, resign. There was no bill of particulars, only the charge that my administration of the Library was "inadequate." I consider this charge as vague, unsupported by the facts and, in effect, an attack upon a long-established professional reputation.

Accordingly, I requested the President in writing to ask an impartial committee of local trustees or members of our faculty or of outside librarians to examine the "adequacy" of the present administration of the Library. This he refused to do.

I, am, therefore, requesting the Senate, as the representative body of our faculty and staff, to advise me on two questions:

I. Does an administrative officer have the right of appeal in such a situation?

II. If so, what is the proper procedure for placing such an appeal?

Respectfully submitted,

March 19, 1955

L. D. Reddick

The Pres. committed that the Senate had nothing to do with this administrative matter.

The Senate members were afraid to speak up in his presence. Thought he should answer charges?

March 23, 1955

Dr. L. D. Reddick, Chief
Trevor Arnett Library
Atlanta University
273 Chestnut Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

My dear Reddick:

Matters are shaping up at Atlanta as I have been afraid they would.

Stick to your guns and try to uphold the traditions of the university.

I am sending you an autographed copy of my SUPPRESSION OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

DB:lh

P.S. I am wondering if the professors and officials of Atlanta University have ever received assured university status which protects their position? We did not have it in my day and without it any official is helpless before the power of the president.

March 28, 1955

Dr. L. D. Reddick, Librarian
Atlanta University
Atlanta, Ga.

My dear Reddick:

I have just heard that Texas Southern University, of which Lanier is President, is looking for a curator of their new Heartman Negro Collection.

As you know this university has been paying high salaries.

I know nothing of the details, but you might be interested in making inquiry.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

DB:lh

[Atlanta Univ., Library]

April 1, 1955
103 Chappell Road, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Friend,

These are dark days for some of us but something has just happened that may make this Easter a bright one for me after all.

A wonderful thing happened last Wednesday, March 30. The inspection committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools spent three days examining Atlanta University and the undergraduate colleges - Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown and Spelman. The results of this inspection will determine largely whether these institutions will be admitted to membership in the Association. So everybody was on edge that morning when the President, Deans, Registrar, Comptroller and Librarian of Atlanta University were summoned to hear the report of the inspection of the University.

Personally, I was a little nervous when the committee started out by being so critical of the enrollment figures. But as things went on, many features of University life were described as being in good order. When the committee came to the Library it spoke in the highest terms of (1) the way the Library was run, (2) kept its records and (3) rendered its services to the colleges and graduate school. The Library staff was described as "academically, professionally and personally of the highest order." These were the words of Dean W. W. Pierson of the University of North Carolina, the chairman of the inspection committee.

Dean Pierson then went on to recommend that the University should provide the Library with twice as much money as at present for book purchases; that a special fund of $50,000 be made available to build up materials for research for the graduate school and that the Library staff deserves to have the rank, salaries and tenure of faculty members.

All of this was stated in the presence of President Clement, Dean Virginia Jones, Dean Westerfield, Dean Nabrit, Dean Lyda, Registrar Clifford, Comptroller Birchette and Librarian Reddick. No one disagreed with this judgment. The chief library expert for the committee, Dr. William H. Jesse of the University of Tennessee, though not present at this meeting, had been even more complimentary to the Librarian.

Thus, we now have on record the results of a thorough inspection of the Library, from top to bottom by duly qualified experts of the authorized rating agency of the region. Nobody now can say, in good faith, that the staff or operation of the Library is inadequate.

This was like an answer from Heaven! Despite our setbacks, we may still have faith that "truth will out" and that, finally, justice may be done.

Happy Easter to all!

Sincerely yours,

L D Reddick

P. S. We all mourn the loss of the "father" of the Trevor Arnett Library. His funeral will take place in Sister's Chapel, Spelman College, at 3:00 P. M. on Tuesday, April 5.

[Atlanta Univ. - Library]

TREVOR ARNETT LIBRARY
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
273 CHESTNUT STREET, S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

April 5, 1955

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Many thanks for both of your letters and for the autographed copy of your book.

I have been thinking of some way of letting you know all the facts in my case here and then it occurred to me that you are actually a member of our faculty - Professor of Sociology Emeritus. Accordingly, I am within bounds when I send you copies of the correspondence and other relevant documents.

I have had a lucky "break" in the case. The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools was here last week for its inspection. As you will see by my letter of April 1, the Association praised the Library to the skies. As I see it, and as some of the members of the Board tell me that they see it, the President is now in an untenable position if he would continue any charge of "inadequacy." These Board members feel that if he can "save face" he will withdraw his charges. There is still the danger, however, that he may put it up to the Board that either he or I must go. That would really make things worse for him as well as for me because if I am thrown out on such charges, I will make it a public issue that will be known about in every corner of the nation - and perhaps in the courts of law as well. If you should know any of the A. U. Board members personally, please speak to them about this but speak or write only to those that you know personally.

I am keeping everything out of the newspapers until the Board meets next week on April 14 because I do want the Board to get a chance to consider the matter calmly. Moreover, I do not want to be caught off base by the President who would say that I had violated proper procedure by releasing confidential University matter to improper persons or the press.

Sincerely yours,

L. D. Reddick

LDR/mf

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, New York

[Atlanta Univ.-
Library]

TREVOR ARNETT LIBRARY
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
273 CHESTNUT STREET, S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

April 7, 1955

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

I trust that the materials I sent to you a few days ago have arrived. It occurred to me that you may not have the names and addresses of the members of the Atlanta University Board of Trustees. I am enclosing same.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

L. D. Reddick

LDR/mf

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, New York

L I S T O F A. U. T R U S T E E S

ALEXANDER, Theodore
208 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

BACON, C. Everett
25 Broad Street
New York, New York

BANKS, Willette R.
Prairie View College
Prairie View, Texas

CARMAN, Harry J. (Dr.)
Columbia College
New York, New York

GIBSON, Truman K.
Supreme Liberty Life Ins. Co.
3501 South Parkway
Chicago, Illinois

GOSSETT, William T.
Ford Motor Company
3000 Schaefer Road
Dearborn, Michigan

KING, Martin L. (Rev.)
193 Boulevard Ave., N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

MacGREGOR, Lawrence J.
Summit Trust Company
Summit, New Jersey

QUANTRELL, Ernest E.
15 Broad Street
New York 5, New York

SAGE, Dean
Triangle Ranch
Sheridan, Wyoming

SPALDING, Hughes
2002 Peachtree Road, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia

TUTTLE, Elbert P. (Judge)
U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals
Atlanta 1, Georgia

WADDELL, Chauncey
40 Wall Street
New York, New York

WEISIGER, Kendall
206 - 17th Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia

WHEELER, John Hervey
Mechanics & Farmers Bank
Durham, North Carolina

YATES, Clayton R.
228 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

GREENE, Bishop Sherman L.
Morris Brown College
Atlanta, Georgia

MINTON, Henry M.
Church & Dwight Company
70 Pine Street
New York 5, New York

READ, Florence
675 Diamond Street
Laguna Beach, California

MANLEY, Albert E. (Dr.)
President
Spelman College
Atlanta, Georgia

SMITH, Reverend Luther Wesley
152 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

~~POWELL, Mrs. Sadye H.~~
~~971 Hunter Street, N. W.~~
~~Atlanta, Georgia~~

April 18 , 1955

Mr. L. D. Reddick, Librarian
Atlanta University
273 Chestnutt Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

My dear Reddick:

The relation of the small college to the college president and trustees is a crying shame of this generation. As I intimated to you in a former letter, we are almost helpless before this form of tyranny. It struck me flat in the face, and in spite of my wide acquaintance and considerable influence I was only able to secure retirement on a very meager pension, not enough to live on.

As I look over the list of trustees which you sent me I find myself practically as helpless today as I was then. Thank you for the material which you sent, which has arrived safely. It is the same old story: inner tricks, favoritism, and narrow-minded envy and jealousy. I used to think that I could always win in fights of this sort by doing honest and straight-forward work, word which the world would recognise. I was deceived. I could not do it.

On the Board of Trustees as now constituted there is the usual number of northern business men. [redacted] persons, well-meaning in the sense that they believe in American business and its present actions, know nothing about Atlanta University and take the word of the president as the last authority. They do not like to have teachers try to get in touch with them.

Then there is the white Southern contingent: four men who like the way in which the president kow-tows to them and dislike any sign of self-asserting Negro manhood or scholarship.

Two of the colored men on the Board I know and they're friends of mine. But there is nothing that I can ask them for because they are bound up with Big Business in such a way that I could not hope to move them. One of the colored men in Atlanta has business interests bound up with Atlanta University. Laurence Read is of course now as always representative of the Rockefeller interests. And neither the presidents of Spelman or Morehouse are really free to act.

There is no salvation but a change of president, and there is no chance of that today.

I wish I saw my way to do something, and if you think of anything I can do, let me know. I see nothing.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

May 18, 1955

Dr. L. D. Reddick
Trevor Arnett Library
Atlanta University
273 Chestnut St. S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

My dear Dr. Reddick:

I read the news in the AFRO-AMERICAN. I am very sorry, but I feared this when you went to Atlanta.

As things are now no independent scholar who does not kow-tow and flatter can stay at Atlanta. This is too bad. When John Hope was alive Atlanta was on the way of becoming one of the great universities of the United States.

I hope you will find a new and advantageous berth, but remember that all Negro institutions today are under the control of Big Business and the executives almost without exception are afraid to open their mouths.

One would think that librarians would be exempt from pressure, but unfortunately this is not so.

I wish you every success, and let me know if there is any way in which I can help.

I wrote to Virginia Banks, wife of the most influential trustee of the Houston institution, W. R. Banks. It might be a good thing for you to write him at his home, Prairie View, Texas. He used to be one of my favored students and is shrewd and resourceful but he is no longer independent. However, he is absolutely uninterested in money and nobody has ever dared to try bribing him.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

TREVOR ARNETT LIBRARY
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
273 CHESTNUT STREET, S. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

May 19, 1955

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Many thanks for your letter just received. Even more thanks for your wonderful letter of April 18. In the latter, you gave a perfect analysis of the behavior of the Board of Trustees.

I do not feel too badly about the way that I am leaving Atlanta University. I believe that the faculty and the Trustees now have a picture of the President of this institution that they had not had before. What is more, I think it is quite timely that the public, generally, should know what really goes on at Atlanta University - and I am sure, at other places. At this time, I believe that a scream of anguish and resentment should go out over the nation. Anything that you can do along this line will help greatly because you as well as Forrester B. Washington are personal witnesses to this kind of thing.

Objectively speaking, the President here is in a weak position: the dormitories are half empty, students are transferring to other institutions, at least five members of the faculty are seeking jobs elsewhere, and the Trustees, though they may not have the interest or courage to support me against him, can no longer close their eyes to the future of the Institution. Strike a good blow and get others to do likewise.

Fortunately, I do have a few offers that look good. Many thanks for the suggestions about Houston. I hope, though, not to go quite that far down into the Southwest. Incidentally, I am giving up library work, going back into History.

I am hopeful that something constructive will come out of this fight.

Sincerely yours,

L. D. Reddick
Chief.

LDR/mf

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, New York

P. S. If you should see Forrester Washington - I understand that he is in New York - please speak to him about this, also.

L. D. R.

37-12-44

January 6, 1955

Mrs. Glovina Virginia Banks
"The Bastion"
Box 2895
State College
Prairie View, Texas

My dear Virginia:

We have your letter of December 27th and are glad you got home all right and are carrying on. It was very disappointing indeed not to see you while you were in New York. We have a very comfortable home in Brooklyn and wanted you to visit us so much. But the weather and all apparently made it impossible.

Thank you for what you have done for our book, "In Battle for Peace." It has been suppressed in every way possible but still is circulating, and has just been republished in Czechoslovakia.

It is terribly upsetting to know how difficult it is today to spread the truth, and your story from New Mexico is part of the almost universal pattern. I suppose things cannot go much further this way, but they have already so exceeded my prophecies that I am afraid to forecast any further alleged facts.

I am quite well indeed. That signature came from the fact that I was signing about a thousand slips or more and got a little tired in the process. I have been in far better health than I had any right to expect.

I do not think that I shall take that invitation to Texas very soon. I am sure you would welcome us, but I am not so sure of the rest of the Texas world. I restrict my journeys these days to places where I won't harm my friends. We are talking of a trip to Haiti. I am not as enthusiastic as Shirley is, but it is barely possible that we may go in February or the latter part of February.

I should like to hear as much about Texas State University as possible. I am wondering about its outcome.

It was certainly very timely for Ann Cooke to go down

27-1-25

there and give a Moliere play. Most of the successful plays and books now are about two centuries behind the time.

My best regards to both you and Mr. Banks, and we are always glad to hear from you.

With love,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-1-26

April 18, 1955

Mrs. Glovina Virginia Banks
Prairie View State Colle ge
Prairie View, Texas

Dear Virginia:

Shirley and I have just returned from a trip to Haiti. Really, you ought to go to the West Indies. They are fabulously beautiful and terribly depressing. We thought that perhaps we would be kept from entering, but we were welcomed and had a very beautiful stay.

How are you getting on, and what is the situation in Texas? By the way, if Houston needs a good librarian, why not look up L.D. Reddick, now at Atlanta? Clement and he are not getting on together, which is quite conceivable. Reddick is really a first-class man.

The world here is still merrily going to the devil, but I think it's going to be hauled up soon. That great meeting in Bandung is really something to make the white world pause and take notice.

Write me.

My best regards to Banks. Shirley and I join in love.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-18-5

[Banks]

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

R. O'HARA LANIER, PRESIDENT

HOUSTON, TEXAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 18, 1955

42-2A-186

MRS. W. R. BANKS
BOX 2895
PRAIRIE VIEW A. AND M. COLLEGE
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

DEAR MRS. BANKS:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF RECENT DATE. WE HAVE THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR BOTH YOU AND DR. BANKS AND ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO SHARE SOME SMALL COURTESY WITH YOU.

MRS. LANIER WISHES TO BE REMEMBERED TO YOU. BETTYE JO AND PATRICIA ARE BOTH GETTING ALONG NICELY. PATRICIA WILL FINISH THE SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL THIS SPRING. BETTYE JO IS ENROLLED AT GRINNELL COLLEGE AND TO OUR GREAT SURPRISE, BROUGHT US A MID-TERM GRADE OF "B" AVERAGE. WE WERE VERY PROUD OF THAT. HER ONLY "C" GRADE WAS GIVEN BY A FORMER TEXAN WHO TEACHES HER SOCIOLOGY. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED AT THIS MARK BECAUSE SHE MADE "B" IN BIOLOGY WHICH IS HER HARDEST SUBJECT AND WE EXPECTED A BETTER GRADE IN SOCIOLOGY. WE DID NOT SAY ANYTHING TO HER ALONG THIS LINE, HOWEVER.

GRINNELL HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A MOST INTERESTING COLLEGE, AND WHILE IT HAS BEEN A VERY EXPENSIVE ONE, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE A LOT TO DO TO PROVIDE THE PROGRAMS WHICH ARE OFFERED IN THESE INSTITUTIONS OF LONG STANDING. WE ARE LEARNING MUCH THROUGH BETTYE JO'S EXPERIENCES, AND IT IS OOR HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO ENLARGE THE PROGRAM OF TEXAS SOUTHERN SO THAT IT WILL APPROXIMATE THOSE OF THE LARGER SCHOOLS.

THE SCHOOL WHICH PATRICIA ATTENDS IS A QUAKER DAY WORK SCHOOL, WHERE ALL OF THE WORK IS DONE BY THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS. ALL OF THE FARM WORK, THE COOKING, CLEANING AND EVEN THE PAINTING OF THE INTERIOR OF THE DORMITORIES AND THE MAKING OF THE FOUNDATIONS FOR NEW BUILDINGS. IT IS HIGHLY RELIGIOUS, UNUSUALLY CONSERVATIVE AND DOES NOT ENCOURAGE DRESSING. EVEN THE NUMBER OF SILK AND SATIN DRESSES IS LIMITED. PERSONAL JEWELRY IS LIMITED AND EVERYTHING IS DONE TO ENCOURAGE SIMPLICITY AND THOROUGHNESS.

I WISH IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO VISIT A SCHOOL OF THIS KIND. I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT IT DOES SOMETHING TO YOUNGSTERS OF TODAY THAT CANNOT BE DONE BY SOME OF THE SUPERFICIAL METHODS WHICH WE ARE USING WITH OUR OWN STUDENTS. WHEN ONE STOPS TO THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT A GIRL MUST SPEND BETWEEN $50 AND $75 TO ENTER ONE OF THE SORORITIES HERE AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, I AM SURE THE PEOPLE AT SCATTERGOOD WOULD LOOK UPON THIS AS EXTREME FOLLY.

281-42-27

42-24-187

IT MAY BE THAT I AM TAKING YOU FOR A SOUNDING BOARD, BUT IT DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH MY PHILOSOPHY. WERE IT NOT FOR THE FACT THAT THE STATE OF TEXAS APPROPRIATES MONEY ON THE BASIS OF THE NUMBER OF HEADS, I WOULD PUT IN FORCE SOME OF MY IDEAS, BUT I AM AFRAID THAT I WOULD CAUSE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO GO ELSEWHERE SO THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE TO DO THE THINGS THEY ARE NOW DOING. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT OUR APPROPRIATION IS BASED ON HEADS RATHER THAN PROGRAM. I HAVE BEEN ASKED VERY FEW QUESTIONS BY LEGISLATORS CONCERNING THE QUALITY OF OUR PROGRAM. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN NUMBERS AND WHEN I CAN SAY 3,000 OR NEARLY 3,000, IT MEANS THAT OUR APPROPRIATION GETS A DIFFERENT CONSIDERATION.

I HAVE THOUGHT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF TRYING TO ENCOURAGE ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS TO ALLOW PERSONS LIKE YOU AND MR. BANKS TO COME TO COLLEGE CAMPUSES, VISIT CLASSES, TALK WITH YOUNGSTERS AND HELP US TRY TO BRING THEM DOWN TO EARTH, BUT OF COURSE, FOUNDATIONS ARE SLOW TO REACT TO PROJECTS OF THIS KIND.

I HOPE THAT YOU AND DR. BANKS HAD A VERY PLEASANT EASTER AND I AM WISHING FOR YOU BOTH CONTINUED HAPPINESS.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

R. O'HARA LANIER
PRESIDENT

ROL/EBT

[Banks]

"The Bastion"

Box 2895
State College
Prairie View, Texas
June 4, 1955

Dr. W.E.B.DuBois
23 West 26 Street
New York 10, New York

My dear Dr. DuBois:

Here we are facing another Day of Texas Independence despite all of the passing years.... important days to remember. The Texans celebrate the nineteenth of June and then comes July 4. This year Fathers Day falls on the nineteenth and I know that many will die on the highways.

You see when I was in New York I had but a few days as I was traveling with a nephew of Mr. B's who had to move on schedule. And too as the virus is such a bad thing to have I did not get out to see you there. The rainy weather set in too. It was too good to hear your voice over the air and you sounded so well.

With regard to the case in New Mexico. A white teacher was dismissed at the same time as the Negro teacher and for the same "forged"reason ... insubordination. Both won their cases. The Negro girl got her back pay of about $2500. Both worked last year. This year they told the white woman that she had to go to school again before she would be re-hired. They did not give the Negro girl her contract until the very last day of grace. She was shrewd. She had said that she wanted to buy a new Pontiac there in Hobbs and that she would if she got her job back. Money talked and that white man went onsto see some of his white friends and she got her contract for 1955-56,but they told her that her work was not satisfactory and so she might not get another contract, but she has tenure and so she fights for all the teachers. White and black have suffered in this system.I have met them all there and the white and Negro officials are a sorry lot.Some day I hope you can sit down here and read the whole sorry mess. The white woman sued for $10,000. That was her salary for the two years she lost. One thing against her too is the fact that she is Catholic. The Negro girl has her Master's. I tell you this is one more world.

You can do us no harm by coming to Texas and bringing Mrs. DuBois on with you. We would be too happy to have you here. Now, Dr. Evans is scared of his shadow and ... well if and when I ever see you then we can talk. Any old white person can come up here on the campus and take a seat in the hall and sell whatever he wants to sell, but .... well you understand. We live just beside the campus in a nice neighborhood where many nice houses are built. It is still quiet enough to deafen your ear drums but one gets used to it. I am glad that you two went to Haiti. What think you of Alexander and the Virgin Isles ?

I asked the Public Relations man at Texas Southern in Houston to see that you got one of their latest annuals. He may have enclosed other bits of

news about the school. The President takes spells at times and tells off color jokes and is often unkind to those there who have helped him so that all seem to feel that he is full of whims. He does have a lot to contend with down there. He has no home life and that despite the fact that he has a nice home well furnished. His wife works at a city library and he is half fed and not taken care of at all. I feel sorry for him. Mr. B. is still as staunch in support of him as he can be. There is a new Chairman of the Board, a Mr. Mack H. Hannah of Port Arthur, Texas who has a white Administrative assistant who is now in an office on the campus right next to President Lanier and of course he ... well he is there. His Secretary is a Negro woman from the white man's home town, Taylor, Texas and many believe news travels. She sits in with the Board except in executive session. Mrs. Hale is still down there in charge of Business classes. Joe Pierce and his wife are there . He is well trained. They have a poker reputation that hinders them some for those places in Houston are often raided no matter how well protected nor how "plush".Dr. Lanier is not afraid to have you speak there even if he himself is suspected of "those" leanings. Negroes are busy trying to hurt him all the time . Then he does much to hurt himself with his curious talk. I am enclosing a letter he sent me. I thanked him for three dozen eggs which he brought us and wished him well. Wherever Mr. B. can offer a word for him by way of support he does it though often Pres. Lanier fe ls as if everyone is against him.

42-19-77

By this time you know that L.D.Reddick has been left off the rolls of A.U. There again if we could see you we could tell you much that one cannot write. He is not a trained librarian. He did neglect his work. He seemed to give too much time to boys. He was not a good public relations man. Then Mrs. Clement was working in the library with him. From reliable sources we know he had no tenure, was not able to set people to work and see that they did it, just was not the person to keep the job. The matter did not come up in the Board at all.

I think that with regard to Bandung that there was a religious ~~atmo-~~ atmosphere there to be reckoned with. It seems that all of us are so "split".

Thank you for the speech which you made in honor of Mr. Hallinan. It is great. I recall some of these words which you used as you talked to us here once.

Mr. B. is fine. He takes care of the garden and the flowers. He is still on several boards and attends all their meeyings. I give a few talks here and there and make a penny or so. We now own our own home here as well as one vacant lot on which we expect to build a rent house. Mr. B. finally sold the old home place in Georgia and so was able to clear this up. And there is a very long and interesting story connected with that.

A recent visitor here in my home, was one Mr. Kosimo Montamayor, who is the President of Mindanao Agri. College in the Philippines. We spoke of you and he wants to write to you. He has been a student here at A. and M. at College Station, Texas. He was to speak to my Reading Group but could not come down when school was in session. He was here for a Future Farmers of America day. He does not want you to give him a single thing. He just may write you with regard to your books. He did not know about them. I hope that if he does send you a note that you will find time and strength and the will to answer. Do you remember how I had to coax you to come down and talk for me once ?

Commencement here was dull. It seems that these Land-Grant presidents are exchanging pulpits here. Rufus B Atwood of Kentucky whispered here this year. His subject was "The Responsibility of the Individual in Our American Society -- a Democracy." He mentioned it and then said nothing closing with the poem "God give us men" et cetera ..... I went to take notes, but .....

I shall stop here with love to both of you from both of us. God grant we meet again some day when we can sit and talk and talk. I would be too

happy to see Mrs. DuBois and to sit and talk with you. And by the way we nww have plenty of hot water andour drinking water comes from the campus so it is fine too.

Sincerely and always loving my dear teacher, I am

Glovina Virginia Perry Banks

(Glovina Virginia Perry Banks)

(Mrs. W.R.)

42-41-24

"The Bastion"
Box 2895
State College
Prairie View, Texas
June 6, 1955

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

We think of you here so often and do wish the two of you would come to see us here once more. You know the last time I had been so sick.

To-morrow we go to Houston for another Board Meeting of T. S. U. They send a whole station wagon for Mr. B. and I go along. Will write you about it later.

Love to both of you. Take good care of each other.

Your old student,
Gloviva Virginia Perry Banks
(Mrs. W. R.)

42-14-125

[Banks]

June 9, 1955
8:00 A.M.

My Dear Dr. Du Bois:

The Texas Southern Board met at Houston yesterday and after reports and routine business — met in Executive session and unanimously voted to give 30 days notice and pay to President Lanier — then let him go. They all felt that he is not the man to continue to hold the work. He disrupts. He disrupts men and keeps them in a fear always. He has favorites this time and hates the same men next time. He tells rotten jokes at any public meeting. He contracts any and all men. We like him and Mr. B. has done all he could for him and the work there. A Faculty Committee will carry on. Joe Pierce is on the Committee, but

U2-14-137

while having a good head and a fine education — will not go on up as he is a poker player for high stakes and while his wife teaches Phy. Ed. at T.S.U. too — they say she likes ladies. Lawsy me!! Dr. Bullock is still there, but wants no part of Administration. Once in the past when they investigated Pres. Sanier Bullock mistreated feared to say a word because they retained the Pres. then and he is a very vindictive man.

Love to both of you there always.

Sincerely,

Gloria Virginia Perry Baulch

(Mrs. W. R.)

Mr. B. is on the Board until 1959

42-14-138

[Banks]

Box 2895
State College
Prairie View, Texas
December 1, 1955

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Thanks for the speech you made at the Guardians welcome dinner given for Vincent Hallinan. Thank you for your dear letter of August 3, 1955. Mr. Banks was in New York City November 17 and 18 and he called everywhere for you, but never found you. Strange! I had no trouble in finding your name and number and regretted so much that I did not have the chance to see you.

Now to answer your letter. The President should have gone long ago. That is a long story — too long to ever write. I need to see you and tell you all about it.

"Lulu" is doing well so far. "Mrs." is not working. She is campus hostess. You see when the other lady was there both of them left the home all day. So no one entertained and there was company always. Banker Milton of Atlanta was here in August and not knowing a word of what you had said — he said the same thing as to "doing nothing." We - rich millionaires will not care either. The Gov. has just appointed a 16 man (all white) committee to study all needs and all finances and what-have-you for all the State supported institutions — so as to know what goes on and to avoid duplication.

We hope Mrs. DuBois is fine now. It delights us to know that you are so well. I am not working, I only do what I want to do. Mr. B. cooks. We have the laundry do

42-11-139

Many folk are building new homes all around us now. School is "full". It is adding buildings too. President Evans now attends the white Land Grant meetings as they have integrated. Recently Texas' white teachers voted not to integrate in their Association at present. But despite "Ole Miss" — the good work goes on.

List for me about six non-fiction books that you think are provocative and good to read.

Write as often as you can find time and do come back to see us here again.

With love to both of you, Dan

Sincerely yours,

Gloria Virginia Perry Banks.

(You know Prairie View is carrying on an Educational project in Liberia. Several of our teachers are over there for from 2 to 3 years.)

42-11-24

[fragment]
[1955?]

THE WOMAN'S COLLEGE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

education, and specific factors that operated as aids and dterrents in their emergence as distinguished Negro Americans. A perusal of my Journal of Negro History article will suggest some of the things I have in mind, and your good sense and your professional experience as a great man of letters and a social scientist will suggest much more. Specifically I am asking what are the best and most reliable printed sources to which I can go for this sort of information in your case. Our library here is rather modest, but if you will let me know the titles of the books and the citations for periodical literature that would supply me with these data (both those written by your own hand and those by others) I will obtain them and study them all very carefully.

I know you are a busy man and that you have earned a good rest; but you are also, alas, the dean of the company of Americans whom I am trying to describe, both because of my interests as a social historian and because of my deep devotion to the cause of social democracy and justice in America. Your great wisdom in these matters and our common interest in advancing the cause of truth are my justification for calling upon you for help.

You will be pleased to know, I think, that my appeals for help of this sort are meeting with a very warm and generous response from the "talented tenth of a tenth"(to paraphrase your own term) whom I am studying.

27-13-19

Cordially yours,
Richard Bardolph
Richard Bardolph

P.S. Do you know how I can reach Paul Robeson? or Richmond Barthe? I have tried the addresses listed in biographical dictionaries but have had no response.

R.B.

[Bardolph]

THE WOMAN'S COLLEGE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

27 October, 1955

Dr. William E.B.DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 1, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Since writing you about a month ago, my interest in my study of Distinguished Negroes in America has grown to the point where I now hope to produce a book-length manuscript on the subject because I am persuaded that it is a theme of great importance. In order to find the time to do the job thoroughly, I decided at the last minute, to apply for a Guggenheim Fellowship for next year so that I may be released from teaching duties and thus freed to pursue this project as well as complete another upon which I have been at work for some time (the latter a study of the Confederate Army, which will mass the evidence to show that it was a most reluctant army indeed, held together to a considerable degree by threats of violence, and composed of poor man who were unhappy about fighting a rich man's war).

I suggested to the Committee on Selection of Guggenheim Fellows that they might write you for a statement of your opinion as to the probable value and importance of my "distinguished Negro" study. I made it very clear to them that you and I are not acquainted, that we have never met; but that you have long been the dean of Negro American intellectuals and that your judgment on this matter would be important. I suppose the committee will write you asking your opinion, and they will doubtless send you a copy of my plan of study and writing. I do hope you will be disposed to speak a good word for my proposals if you are approached.

Faithfully yours,
R Bardolph
Richard Bardolph,
Associate Professor

27-13-18

May 20, 1955

Manager
Baronet Theater
993 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Sir:

Yesterday as I came out of your theater after seeing Hiroshima, you or someone else asked me how I liked it. I said, "Well, it was harrowing."

My wife complained afterward and said that I should have told the questioner how good a job he was doing.

I want to say now that the situations shown in Hiroshima are terrible, but I am glad you are showing it. Every American citizen should see it in order to realise how horrible war and especially atomic war can be.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-18-6

M F B

February 21, 1955
200 West 15th St.
New York City

Dear Dr. Du Bois,

May I, too, salute you on this, your eighty-seventh birthday.

There are so many accolades you have received, all so richly deserved; but the crowning one, in my modest estimation, is the esteem and affection in which you are held by those who stand by truth and integrity in these sad, trying, yet inspiring days. For it is truly inspiring to have a personality such as you to act as conscience to those who would, and do, choose the easier and compromised path.

So from Ted and me a toast to more birthdays to you, and a toast to your fine and lovely wife.

Sincerely,

Minna E. Sayer

27-13-23

W. E. B. Du Bois
23 WEST 26TH STREET
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

April 18, 1955

Mr. Ernest Beeman
Erwin, Tennessee

My dear Sir:

Your letter of June, 1954, in some way has just turned up in my letter tray. I must have neglected it in some way and am sorry.

I agree with you that the exploitation of Negro youth and grown people by the cigarette, tobacco and liquor companies is a shameful thing.

I am afraid there is very little that I can do about it, unless perhaps I get a chance to say a word, which I shall certainly do when I can.

Thank you for the note.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

Dear Doctor: I have this thot. There is a Negro publisher in Durham NC (Mr. L.E. Austin, Carolina Times, 518 E Pettigrew St) who has lots of liquor and cigaret ads in his paper. He is a big church brother, and also is quite courageous at times in his editorials on segregation etc. Ive often gotten after him abt his part in helping wreck yng Negro youth's health, but he says (religioso) that "If I didnt take that advertising my paper would go under."
Well, here a few wks ago he mentioned yr Guardian series of articles and recommended that his readers follow them. Why not write him as tho you had seen that issue of his paper. Thank him,--and then express pain at seeing the "youth-killers" ads in such a fine paper. Put it this way: "Bro Austin, you are a religious man. Where is yr faith? Do you think godalmitey wont prosper you unless you do these wicked things to young Negroes who ought to be growing up strong of mind & body?" (over)

27-178-18

Just an idea. It just might have some influence. And if his reply is favorable, you might bring similar "pressure" on the Negro papers.

Best wishes

Ernst Seeman.

P.S. I once was on the faculty of "Cigarette University." For 20 years or more I have helped spread the cancer idea which is now getting good momentum. I started Geo Selden on his cancer-tobacco link-up 25 years ago when Dr Pearl at Hopkins, after research on the subject was prevented getting it published anywhere.* I spoke to George & he went down to Balto & they got together & he is the man who really got the idea going to town.

G.

* I. was then director of the press at Duke Univ and saw how the Duke cotspoon would do everything possible to crush such research. (Their own laboratories were largely devoted to promoting tobacco products!)

[Benchley]

March 31/55

My dear Prof. DuBois:

In the first days of March, Fulton Lewis on his regular broadcast at 6 p.m local time pretended to have Madame Chiang come in on his broadcast to express her opinion of the personel in charge of the Chinese government in Peiping. When Lewis called for madame Chiang to "come in" some old blister responded in a voice as coarse as #50 sand paper with a very low opinion of their ability. The whole thing sounded so much like a fake I think it is well worth while looking into it. I am willing to contribute $25.00 towards paying long distance tolls etc if you and Paul Robeson will undertake the investigation. Col McCormick Lewis's boss is supposed to be on his death bed at present.

Yours truly

Robert Benchley

Phoenix, Ariz
2245 N. 10th St

27-18-7

April 18, 1955

Mr. Robert Benchley
2245 N. 10th Street
Phoenix, Arizona

My dear Mr. Benchley:

Your letter of March 31 reached me rather late because I was out of the country making a short visit to Haiti.

I am afraid that very little can be done at this date to follow up the lies of Fulton Lewis and of those like him who have such large influence and control upon our news gathering and press.

It is almost impossible for me and I am sure the same thing is true of Paul Robeson, either to get anything published or to communicate with our friends abroad or to get communications through to us. Our mail is regularly disturbed and all we can do is to sit still and make gestures. Perhaps that's worth while but the exercise is a bit annoying.

Thank you for your interest.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-18-8

42/1A/31

NELSON BENGSTON
55 West 55th Street
New York 19, N.Y.

July 7, 1955

Dear Friend:

World events have moved so rapidly in the past months that we most fortunately find ourselves on the threshold of alleviating the tensions built up by the cold war. All of humanity looks to the Conference of Chiefs of State of the major war-time allies at Geneva next week as a turning point from war to peace.

All too often, we Americans speak up only when we are faced with immediate dire prospects. Would it not be wise to speak up now in a positive vein in support of the efforts of our President to meet the problems forthrightly in an effort to end the cold war?

The enclosed draft of an open letter to our President is intended for release on July 18th when the Geneva Conference is scheduled to commence. We hope to release this letter over the signatures of from ten to twenty outstanding leaders and humbly ask your endorsement. We, ourselves, may not even appear.

Would you kindly wire or telephone collect (telephone CIrcle 5-6628)? Time is of the essence. The enclosed stamped and self-addressed envelope and signature card are included for purposes of verification. We should appreciate your mailing it without delay.

Respectfully yours,

Nelson Bengston
Nelson Bengston

Sidney J. Gluck
Sidney J. Gluck

Bryan Hamlin
Bryan Hamlin

Sandy F. Ray
Rev. Sandy F. Ray

Guy Emery Shipler
Rev. Guy Emery Shipler

Enclosures

Albert H. Berrian

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
SOUTHERN BRANCH POST OFFICE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
November 14, 1955

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

42-19-141

My dear Dr. Dubois,

I have wondered for some time now why your contributions to the Negro and to American Democracy have been so poorly understood. Certainly, as Kardiner and Ovesey note in their Mark of Oppression, you served to galvanize the Negro's psychological effort to achieve self respect and to counteract the philosophy of accomodation preached by Booker T. Washington. It is possible that your methods of attack—a fusion of scholarly and scientific technique with propagandistic devices— make it difficult to evaluate the wonderful things you have done for the race.

Having reread your works and having made a detailed study of Dusk of Dawn and Black Reconstruction , I have begun an essay on your role as a catalytic agent. I am also in the process of analyzing the historical and sociological concepts of nineteenth century America and Germany along with the position of the Negro in America at that time. The idea behind this is to write of the forces (internal and external) that directed your life and work.

I sincerely hope that this project does not meet your disapproval. Any reactions to it or any advice that you deem advisable will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Albert H. Berrian

Albert H. Berrian

Mt. Airy Road
Croton-on-Hudson, New York
November 26, 1955

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Du Bois,

Allow me to express my deepest gratitude and the gratitude of my husband, Alexander Bittelman, for your support in getting the permission of the government to write a book while he is in the Atlanta Penitentiary. He is writing a historical novel of the Jewish people in Tzarist Russia. Although it is not exactly what he would like to write, he expressed joy in being able to write at all.

42-19-135

But it seems that while the government reluctantly gave with one hand, it is trying now to take away something else with the other hand, namely, the money which my husband receives from the Social Security Retirement Fund.

About a month ago Mr. Bennett, Supervisor of Prisons, issued an order to impound the money. The enclosed clippings and a copy of my letter to the press, which was never published or commented on, will tell you the story.

What Mr. Bennett is doing is unjust and cruel and I would greatly appreciate it if you would write him a letter expressing your opinion of this cruel action. It not only deprives my husband of what rightfully belongs to him, since he has been paying into that fund for twenty years, but it also deprives me of the only financial support he was able to give me.

With warmest greetings for the coming season,

Very respectfully,

Eva Bittelman

(Mrs.) Eva Bittelman

COPY

[Bittelman]

Mt. Airy Road
Croton-on-Hudson
New York
November 7, 1955

Editor
New York World Telegram
125 Barclay Street
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

42-IA-136

On October 27th you carried a story which purported to be a disclosure of the fact that my husband, Alexander Bittelman, a Communist, now serving a three-year sentence for alleged violation of the Smith Act, is receiving a Federal Old Age Pension. Since under the stringent rules of our federal prison system my husband may not write a letter to an editor on his own behalf, may I call your attention to the following:

My husband's Old Age Pension rightfully belongs to him. During the period of his employment the government accepted deductions from his pay which accrued to his Old Age Pension Fund. These payments were accepted from him according to law without question as to his political beliefs, religion, creed or color. When he reached the statutory age of sixty-five, his Old Age Pension payments were due him as they are due all persons who come under the compass of the Act.

As for the implication of your Washington correspondent that Old Age Pension payments to a Communist who is a political prisoner are unfortunate and present a loophole which requires legislative plugging, may I suggest that to move toward depriving any person of his Social Security rights because of his beliefs is dangerous and un-American. It is bad enough that already in this past decade we have reverted to the shameful Alien and Sedition days and imprisoned dissenters. I am certain that the American people do not wish their Social Security Act to be destroyed with riders which would bar anyone from its benefits on the basis of political beliefs, party affiliation, how he registers or votes, what he thinks of those in political office, what he believes, teaches, or advocates.

I would also like to call your attention to an inaccuracy in your story to the effect that Alexander Bittelman has not paid anything toward his $6,000 fine, while horror or horrors, he is accumulating riches from the Old Age Pension Fund and squandering money freely in jail. For a year before he went to jail in Atlanta, my husband made monthly payments toward that fine. Since his imprisonment, these payments discontinued. His freedom to spend his Pension money freely in jail, which your reporter noted, consists of a $12 a month allowance for such items as toilet articles, candy, etc. The rest of his pension money is sent to me to live on. Perhaps this loophole in the Social Security Act needs plugging, too? Perhaps the wives and children of political prisoners must be punished by being deprived of sustenance from Social Security funds?

I am of the belief that the American people more and more express their growing conviction that it is a shameful thing that there are political prisoners in our jails today. I am certain, too, that any suggestions for tampering with the Social Security Act on a political basis will be rejected, and I look forward to your editorial columns for an expression of your strong disapproval of the idea.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Eva Bittelman

May 13, 1955

Mr. Howard Fast
Blue Heron Press
47 West 63 St.
New York 23, N.Y.

Dear Howard:

Please send me six more copies of the SOULS OF BLACK FOLK.

I owe you for some sent earlier. Add these to the bill and subtract any royalties due, which I suspect do not amount to much.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. DU Bois

DB:lh

287-12-21

THE BLUE HERON PRESS, Inc.

47 West 63 Street, New York 23, N. Y. SUsquehanna 7-4084

May 25, 1955

Dr. W. E. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York City, N.Y.

42-19-86

Dear Dr. DuBois :

The attached card will give you the address of the studio where we are to record as previously decided.

I had to make the appointment for 8 P.M. on Wednesday, the 1st of June. We have the studio for one hour so the recording will be finished by 9 or sooner. Even if this occasions some inconvenience to you, I think you will understand that I had to adapt myself to the needs of the people who run the studio. I trust that you will make every effort to be there. Since we must be started at 8 o'clock promptness is very necessary.

Within the concept that the entire record take no more than thirty minutes, I feel that we must stress the necessity for each of you to keep his remarks to a maximum of five minutes. This is best done by timing your remarks in a normal voice. All remarks should be written out so that we may immediately begin to report as soon as we are present. I intend to write a frame of reference and in so doing will introduce firstly, Dr. DuBois; secondly, Dr. Paolone; thirdly, Paul Robeson. Concluding remarks by John Darr will be somewhat shorter than those of the other speakers and there is the possibility that I may introduce Dr. Willard Uphouse or perhaps quote a few words from Dr. Uphouse. Even if this form is revised, the remarks of DuBois, Paolone and Robeson, will each constitute an entity.

If anything should arise to prevent you from being at this session will you please call me at Susquehanna 7 - 4084; if possible, before noon.

Sincerely,

Howard Fast

HOWARD FAST

264

THE BLUE HERON PRESS, Inc.
47 West 63 Street, New York 23, N. Y. SUsquehanna 7-4084

100-41-24

June 13, 1955

Dr. W.E.D. DuBois
23 East 26th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Here enclosed is the $3.00 which represents my share of the expenses. May I personally take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughtfulness and efforts in this matter -- an item for which no amount of money can properly be placed.

Sincerely,

HOWARD FAST

(Enc.)

41-19E-8

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

by WESTERN UNION

B310CC 7R NL PD

NASHVILLE TENN FEB 22 1955

DR W E B DUBOIS B

31 GRACE COURT BROOKLYN NY

IN MY BOOK I CALLED YOU "THE LEADER AS POET AND SEER"

AND WITH THAT I HAIL YOUR 87TH BIRTHDAY

ARNA BONTEMPS

955P

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[Bontemps]

FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 8 TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

April 20, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Your letter of April 18 covers the Tuskegee question admirably. I have you at just about that point in my manuscript. Please don't be surprised if something else comes up in the course of the work.

Meanwhile I shall look forward to hearing that the recording has been made.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Arna Bontemps

AB/alj

27-18-9

FISK UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE 8, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF LIBRARIAN

March 29, 1955

Dr. & Mrs. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, New York (2)

Dear Shirley:

I was delighted to receive your card from Haiti. I am assuming that you are home again by now but if not that you will receive this eventually.

Two matters are on my mind. I have just asked Mr. Moses Asch of Folkways Records if he will arrange for the tape recording of WEB's voice which we discussed around the first of the year. This is in connection with the Historical Montage of Fisk University on which we are working. As you may recall, my thought was to include the DuBois voice reading something he wrote while still a student at Fisk or shortly thereafter. The Bismarck Oration, would be fine if he has no objection, but anything else of the same vintage would serve.

The second matter is a research question. The grapevine has it that Marques James is crowing because he came across, among the BTW papers, WEB's application for a job at Tuskegee. Of course DuBois has said in his writing that he applied to Tuskegee and elsewhere after returning from Germany. My question: Was there <u>another</u> application at a different time?

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Arna Bontemps

AB/alj

27-174-52

April 18, 1955

Mr. Arna Bontemps, Librarian
Fisk University
Nashville 8, Tennessee

My dear Mr. Bontemps:

I have just returned from Haiti and got to answering my letters.

With regard to your letter of March 29th, I shall be glad to make the recording and will try to arrange for it soon.

When I returned from the University of Berlin in 1892 I sent out a dozen or more letters all over the country asking for work. I wrote to Hampton, Tuskegee, Wilberforce and a number of other places. The first answer that came was from Wilberforce and I immediately accepted the job of teaching there.

After I had accepted, late in the summer, there came an answer from Tuskegee offering me a place to teach mathematics. I refused because I already had another job.

I never made another application to Tuskegee but about 1900 Mr. Washington and his friends made repeated overtures to have me leave Atlanta University and come to Tuskegee for similar work. I was at first disposed to accept but the offers were a little too vague and indefinite. It wasn't certain as to just what I was to do and as to what remuneration I was to get. I had an interview with Mr. Washington in New York at the Grand Union Hotel but found afterward that I had done all the talking and that he had said comparatively little.

Finally, however, an offer was made. I do not now remember exact terms, but I was to get a larger salary than I got at Atlanta, which was only $1200, and I was to work at research. But I got the feeling that I was to furnish material for Mr. Washington's speeches. I didn't like the offer and therefore turned it down and made the refusal fast by publishing my chapter in SOULS OF BLACK FOLK in 1903.

I trust this covers your inquiry.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-17A-58

[Bontemps]

FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 8 TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

April 20, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Your letter of April 18 covers the Tuskegee question admirably. I have you at just about that point in my manuscript. Please don't be surprised if something else comes up in the course of the work.

Meanwhile I shall look forward to hearing that the recording has been made.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Arna Bontemps

AB/alj

27-18-9

FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 8 TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

April 26, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

I thought you might be interested in this copy of a lecture I presented last Friday evening in Chattanooga. It contains some points of view which I develop much more extensively in my book. I selected the subject because of its appropriateness at the first fully integrated meeting of Tennessee Librarians. It was received most enthusiastically, and I trust this is a harbinger of a similar response to the book itself when it is completed. I'll be more than grateful for any comments you may make.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Arna Bontemps

AB/alj

27-178-21

Series 3

THREE VISITORS TO TENNESSEE

By

Arna Bontemps

(Lecture. Banquet Meeting of the Tennessee Library Association, April 22, 1955--Lookout Mountain Hotel, Chattanooga)

A librarian who has read contemporary fiction or poetry is likely to have an eye for symbolism. In this occasion, I suspect, considering the time and the place, not to mention the question which has been before the Supreme Court in Washington in recent days and the conference of thirty African and Asian nations in Bandung, Indonesia, this week--in this occasion, I venture, one could also discover various levels of meaning.

It would be possible to discuss these meanings, if we wished, in terms of the library profession. The world of books and the world of national and international affairs are one. But I have something else in mind.

About a year and a half ago a bus load of students from one of the white high schools outside Nashville visited our library at Fisk. I was introduced to the teachers who accompanied the group and learned that these visitors were seniors from social science classes. No one had to tell me that it was a selected group. They were all alert. After a tour of our building the group assembled in a room where we could talk and

27-18-34

asked if they might put a few questions.

I was pleased, and everything went along fine until one of the students asked me innocently, "Would you mind telling us the names of the prominent Negroes we should know about?"

Now there are a good many Negro Americans who have achieved distinctions of one kind or another since the beginning of our history. Some of their names have been written on money that we carry in our pockets, on stamps that we put on our letters, on countless registrations in the U. S. Patent Office, on lyrics and songs that we say or sing and on books by the hundreds. THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, I have just noticed, carries a major article in its current issue, April, 1955, entitled, "The Distinguished Negro in America, 1770-1936" by Richard Bardolph. Which of all these, could I say, are names that every high school senior - as well as every college student - in America should know?

When I hesitated, the teacher in charge offered a little help. "They know about the baseball players, the jazz musicians and the prize fighters," she said. "But they have been asking me about Negroes in some of the other fields."

I named the presidents of the colleges in our area, rattled off a list of men successful in the professions, added a few others who work in the arts and then turned to the national scene. "Of course, you all know about Dr. Ralph Bunche," I said. To my surprise, most of them did not. Thurgood Marshall? No. James Weldon Johnson? No. George Washington Carver?

9.
27-18-35

Oh, yes, everybody knew him. Marian Anderson? Some of them knew the name. Paul Laurence Dunbar. One or two.

Whatever this lack of information about Negroes implies, I am sure it isn't good. Since the high school students left our library that day, I have made inquiries of my own, and I am convinced now that the question in their minds is not wholly unrelated to the one before the Supreme Court or the issues engaging the thirty nations at Bandung.

The failure of intelligent readers to recognize the names of Ralph Bunche and Thurgood Marshall, despite the frequency with which these names appear in newspapers, can probably be explained best in psychological terms. The deep impression made by the career of George Washington Carver, on the other hand, fast becoming an American legend, must also be partly due to something subconscious (particularly in view of the fact that few of the people who know his name can tell you just why Carver should be remembered).

If the question comes up again, I hope to be better prepared. If it comes from scholars, from college or university librarians, perhaps I'll just cite Bardolph's article in THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW. A painstaking study by a member of the faculty of Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, that article is likely to serve a fine reference function for a long time to come. If the inquiry is more general, however, I think I will boil my answer down to three names.

67-18-36

In the three hundred and thirty-six years that Negroes have been a part of American life, three men have attained the eminence and influence of national leaders. One of the names will not surprise you. The other two probably will. I do not say that these are necessarily the three best known or most famous Negroes in our hemisphere, present or past. The statement has to do with influence, with leadership on a broad scale, with impact on the nation, with a place in history. So judged, these three stand out clear and distinct from all the others. And it just happens that all three wrote books - books which, in my opinion, have special meaning today and should be rediscovered by librarians everywhere.

You may ask how I made my selections. Well, I started with a formula. A leader is a man who leads. I looked for evidence that the individual under consideration had committed Negroes as a whole to a course of action proposed by himself - a course of action not previously approved or followed by them. Each of my three accomplished this. Of no others can the same be said. It happens that each of the three was a man of unusual personal qualities who probably would have been equally (if not more) outstanding had he been born at any other time, in any other environment. It happens also that each visited Tennessee at least once during his lifetime.

Tennessee became aware of Frederick Douglass, the first of the three, during the abolitionist campaign. Some years ago

27-18-37

when I was attending the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago, I had occasion to consult the files of a newspaper called THE CHICAGO INTEROCEAN for a period prior to the War Between the States, and one of the news items that caught my eye was a dispatch from Knoxville, Tennessee. It told about a colored man who had been killed on the streets of that city in a case of mistaken identity. The paper said that because of a physical resemblance of the man had evidently been taken for Frederick Douglass.

What the real Frederick Douglass had done to earn the hostility of Knoxville and the rest of the South is too long to go into now, but there is little doubt that the partisan press of those inflamed days had given him the reputation of a menace. A mulatto giant, as famous for his impressive appearnace as for his great powers of oratory, he had been born a slave on the eastern shore of Maryland. In 1838, at the age of twenty-one, he had escaped from slavery by way of the underground railroad. Within five years of that date he was a well-read man, a great platform personality and a headline attraction at meetings sponsored by the Massachussetts Anti-Slavery Society. So successful was the young Douglass, in fact, he soon found himself in a dilemma.

Certain students at Harvard, after listening to one of his speeches on the iniquity of the slave system, made to observations. 1) There was no proof that this handsome and eloquent young Negro was actually what he professed to be.

27-18-38

They couldn't believe that he was uneducated; it seemed impossible. He seemed as literate and brilliant as any Harvard graduate.

2) They questioned the argument against slavery which used Frederick Douglass as an example. How could one say that a system was bad which produced a human being such as this?

Mainly, of course, they hinted that he was an imposter. A man of education and refinement posing as a runaway slave. The undercurrent of whispering became so strong, in fact, that Douglass had to cancel his speaking engagements and go into seclusion while he prepared an answer. When he came before the public again, he was armed with a little book called THE NARRATIVE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS. It was the story of his life in slavery, his longing for freedom, and finally his successful escape. He named names and gave dates and places. But while he silenced the whisperers who didn't believe slavery could have produced a Frederick Douglass, he tipped-off his former owner who straightway instituted legal procedures to secure the return of his property.

Douglass paused to reflect - but only for a moment. Within a few days, and just one step ahead of the agents who sought his capture and return to bondage, he boarded a vessel sailing for England. About a year later, his reputation having grown enormously and his former owner having been paid off, he returned to his native land to resume the fight for freedom. He lectured and published without respite for the next thirteen years - indeed until the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

27-18-39

At times he was called into conference by President Lincoln on matters touching Negro soldiers as well as problems of the freedmen, and he recruited the first Negro regiments for the Union army. By the time the War ended, his name was revered by every Negro who had known slavery in any form.

I would call him the leader as hero. His physical courage thrilled and inspired as many thousands as did his great oratory - as did the various editions of his stirring and well-written autobiography. But the proof of his leadership was his success in bringing the Negro himself, especially the free Negro, into the anti-slavery struggle. Free Negroes, you know, at first took a handsoff attitude toward abolition. They felt that their own position was so precarious they could not afford to have anything to do with the agitation or the efforts to help fugitives. Douglass convinced them they were not safe while slavery existed, that it was worth the risk to join the anti-slavery forces with heart and soul. They responded and made him at the age of twenty-eight the outstanding Negro personality in America, an eminence he held - except for certain short interludes - till he died in 1895 at the age of seventy-seven.

Just five months after Frederick Douglass' death, Booker T. Washington delivered his celebrated Atlanta speech. At the Cotton States' Exposition, an occasion which was unique in many ways, he coined the phrase "separate as the fingers - but one as the hand" in an effort to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the guerilla warfare which had followed reconstruction in this

27-18-40

area. Booker T. Washington, whose name is the only one among the three national leaders which is widely and generally known by Americans, has been called the greatest southerner to rise to prominence between the close of the War and the end of the century. Mr. Bardolph of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, whose important article I have mentioned, calls him the greatest political influence in the region during the Republican administrations of that era.

Since Washington has been somewhat less neglected, perhaps I need say less about him to Southerners than about the other two, but at least one observation is especially timely. When the Supreme Court ruled against the so-called "Separate but equal" doctrine in public education, it overturned an earlier decision taken in 1896 in the case of Plessy vs. Ferguson. Not many people remember that the earlier decision, the one which formed the legal basis for the dual system now existing in many states, followed by just one year the Atlanta Speech by Booker T. Washington. Remember the acclaim with which that address was hailed and the widespread editorial comment that here was a basis for settling the South's most perplexing problem, it seems obvious to me that Washington's influence upon the intellectual climate in which the decision was made can no longer be overlooked. The Court had listened to such cases many times before, but not until Booker T. Washington spoke in Atlanta was it ever able to crystalize its thinking on the issue in this way.

27-18-41

I would call Washington the leader as negotiator. His role in this case was not unlike his part in bringing Negroes around to an acceptance of vocational or industrial education in preference to the liberal education previously regarded as all-important. While he worked to change this attitude in Negroes, he also worked to convince southern whites and northern industrialists and philanthropists that this was the way in which to help the South as a whole. He liked to tell Southerners that the only way to keep the Negro in the ditch was to stay down there with him. I believe he made the point stick in his autobiography UP FROM SLAVERY and in his many other books.

Even though conditions have changed since Booker T. Washington died in 1915, there is good reason to reflect on his wisdom today. What Booker T. Washington did not know about human nature was scarcely knowable at that time. Among those who trusted his judgment implicity were three presidents of the United States and most of the great national figures of his generation - university presidents, railroad builders, diplomats - all were convinced of his essential greatness.

What Booker T. Washington never did, however, was to relate the problem of the Negro in the United States to the problems of colored peoples around the world. That remained for the third of my leaders. William Edward Burghardt DuBois came to Tennessee first as a sophomore at Fisk University in the fall of 1885. Sixteen years old, small of stature but erect and with well-chiseled features, he had graduated from

high school in Great Barrington, Massachussetts, the town of his birth. He made a fine record at Fisk both as a student and as an editor of the School paper. At Harvard afterwards he won all the awards and honors in his path. He became a favorite student of William James, of Albert Bushnell Hart of Barrett Wendell and of other great Harvard teachers of the nineties. He read philosophy with Santayana. After studying in Germany for two years he returned to the United States and began a career as college teacher, editor and writer.

In THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK, published first in 1903, he pointed out some weaknesses in the program of Booker T. Washington. This did not make him popular. He has never actually been popular. But he started something called the Niagra Movement in 1905, and this led into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1910. And it was the NAACP which DuBois dreamed-up that finally brought the suits in court which led to the Supreme Court decision rejecting the "separate but equal" doctrine in education and by extension, no doubt, in other phases of American life.

DuBois became the editor of the CRISIS, the organ of the NAACP and laid down the basic principles. A poet and philosopher, he also called attention to the larger communities of people in our world and the ways in which the little things that happen in a small Tennessee town are related to far away events. When he persuaded Negroes to raise their sights again,

27-18-43

to press for full citizenship, to seek the spiritual rewards of a liberal education as well as instruction in the trades, he was turning a tide which had definitely been running in another direction. He had won the reluctant support of his people on the basis of his wider vision, his sense of history. At that moment he might have been called the leader as prophet and seer.

All three of these men visited Tennessee. Douglass was here first, shall we say, by proxy when his double was attacked on the streets of Knoxville at a time when sectional passions had reached the boiling point. He was here again in 1889 following a commencement address he delivered at Booker T. Washington's school at Tuskegee, Alabama. He stopped in Nashville and saw Fisk University and Jubilee Hall. By that time he was living in the past, his mind dwelling on the excitements of the campaign for emancipation in which he had fought so valiantly and with so much lasting satisfaction.

Booker T. Washington came first to lecture in Nashville in the year of Douglass' visit, but he returned again and again, speaking to large mixed audiences at Vanderbilt and in the Ryman auditorium as well as elsewhere throughout the state. DuBois was in school at Fisk for three years. He was back as a commencement speaker in less than a decade after graduation and has been in the state many times since.

These are the Negroes I think all Americans should know. Fortunately for librarians, they are all easy to know. Douglass'

87-18-44

LIFE AND TIMES OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, the last revision of his autobiography, has occasionally been reissued. Booker T. Washington's UP FROM SLAVERY has never been out of print and can be found in various editions. W. E. B. DuBois' THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK, a classic of its kind, has been in print most of the time since it was published. There has never been a time when some of DuBois' many books were not available, I believe.

As individuals the three men had some interesting similarities. None of them knew their fathers, or at least not well. Each owed his upbringing to a mother or (in Douglass' case) a grandmother. Each started life by making a journey of discovery which influenced him profoundly: Douglass the escape to the North, Washington the long tramp from the West Virginia mountains to General Armstrong's school at Hampton, Virginia; DuBois a lyrical train ride from western Massachussetts to Nashville (writing poetry along the way). Each was promising in his youth and attained early recognition. Each suffered reverses and was misunderstood and near disgrace at one time or another in his career. But each survived and lived to fight again and raise his head above the cloud.

I sincerely believe that all three have something significant to say to Tennessee librarians today.

27-18-45

[Bontemps]

April 29, 1955

Mr. Arna Bontemps, Librarian
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

My dear Mr. Bontemps:

There is one thing that I greatly dislike in your lecture to the Tennessee Library Association. On page 12 you say:

> "As individuals the three men had some interesting similarities. None of them knew their fathers, or at least not well."

The intimation is that all three of us were illegitimate. I do not want any such vague statement to stand.

My mother and father were married and lived together, and while he left to secure work elsewhere you have no right to intimate that this was a broken family. I was not old enough when he left to remember him distinctly, but I did know him.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B.Du Bois

DB:lh

.37-TA-60

May 13, 1955

Mr. Arna Bontemps, Librarian
Fisk University
Nashville 8, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Bontemps:

I have been unable to find in my files a copy of the Bismarck speech. I have the of the Jefferson Davis speech, but if you have a copy of the Bismarck speech will you please send it to me.

I will then proceed to have one or the other put on tape.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

DB:lh

[Bontemps]

FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE 8 TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

May 17, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

I'm sorry that I did not make a copy of the Bismarck speech, but I remember seeing it in your files when I was there. Let's hope it is just out of place and will come to light eventually. Meanwhile, the Jefferson Davis speech will be just as good for the tape recording from our point of view.

A complimentary copy of Booker T. Washington and the Negro's Place in American Life by Samuel T. Spencer, Jr. has just come to me from Little, Brown and Company. The author puts a halo on BTW but is unfair to you. I am pointing this out to the publishers, and I trust I can counteract it somewhat in my own book.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Arna Bontemps

AB/alj

27-18-10

[Bontemps, Paul]

May 18, 1955

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bismarck Bontemps
246 West 150 Street, Apartment 2H
New York City

Dr. and Mrs. W.E.B. Du Bois send congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bismarck Bontemps on the occasion of their marriage.

27-178-25

April 27, 1955

Book Fair
113 West 49 St.
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I have come into possession of 200 copies of my COLOR AND DEMOCRACY, the last of them in print.

I can let you have any or all of them at 75¢ a copy. Are you interested?

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

January 1, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
23 W. 26th St.
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

I am very sorry I have been so long answering both your communication during Carl's trial and the one after his trial.

We did appreciate your willingness to come down and testify. However, after I wrote to you on this matter, our plans changed as to bringing in out-of-town witnesses. For one thing, we decided that the expense would be prohibitive. Then too, after Carl decided to testify himself it was not so necessary to bring other people to describe the organizations he was charged with belonging to.

Actually, I am convinced it would not have made too much difference who testified. The jury probably had its mind made up early in the trial, and, as you pointed out in your letter, the atmosphere in the community was beyond ordinary influence. It seemed that all of people's race prejudices, all of their frustrations, all of their fears of communism and the current hysteria were wrapped in a ball and flung in fury at Carl. It reminded me quite literally of all I have ever heard of the atmosphere that surrounded the original witchhunts in Salem. Carl became a symbol for the venting of their hate, rather than a human being.

27-170-43

Anyway, we were in such a rush during the trial that there was no time to write and tell you of our change in plans about having you and others come to testify. They were having night sessions at court most of the time, so there was little time for anything.

After the conviction, it took me a little while to recover and collect my wits to begin to fight back again. I also had to get things in order to get away to spend Christmas with my children, who are with my parents in Alabama. However, I did receive your letter of December 15 right after the trial, when I was feeling very blue, and it bolstered me up considerably to know that we had the support of people like you and your wife. I thank you very much.

As to what you can do---I think if you can talk this case up among the people with whom you come in contact it will help tremendously. People in Louisville are shocked by what has happened---the decent people, I mean---and many of them are disturbed. But most of them, at this point, are still paralyzed by fear. I believe if they begin to feel some interest in the situation from other parts of the country it will give them the courage to move here.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Anne Braden

Anne Braden, P.O. Box 1302, Louisville, Ky.

The American Socialist
A Monthly Publication

863 BROADWAY · NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
WAtkins 9-7739

April 25, 1955

W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26 Street
New York 25

Dear Mr. DuBois:

I would like to have your permission to call on you on a matter of common interest. If you could drop me a note telling me when I may come around to see you, I should be most appreciative.

Sincerely,
Harry Braverman
Harry Braverman

27-10-109

April 27, 1955

Mr. Harry Braverman
The American Socialist
863 Broadway
New York 3, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Braverman:

I am usually in my office at:

23 West 26 Street, N.Y.C.

from noon until 4 o'clock on weekdays except Saturday.

If you will phone beforehand and make an appointment I shall be glad to talk with you.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-10-110

[Braverman]

The American Socialist
A Monthly Publication

863 BROADWAY · NEW YORK 3, N. Y.
WAtkins 9-7739

July 11, 1955

241-41-24

W. E. B. Dubois
23 West 26th St.
New York 25, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Dubois:

I recently received a lengthy letter from a correspondent in Flint, Michigan, giving me the details of big banquet tendered Nathaniel Turner, the leading Negro unionist in Flint who challenged Reuther at the last Auto Workers convention and sought a place on the UAW Executive Board. I thought you might be interested in some remarks that were made there.

According to my information, Mr. P. L. Prattis, executive editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, made a surprisingly militant civil liberties speech and in the course of it said that the "world renowned Dubois was praised highly 50 years ago for his brilliant work and for saying the same thing today he has barely escaped jail." I enclose a clipping on the meeting, and would appreciate if you returned it as it is my only copy.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Braverman

Harry Braverman

27-18-46

Brooklyn Heights Association, Inc.
76 MONTAGUE STREET
BROOKLYN 1, NEW YORK

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois

31 Grace Court, B'klyn, N.Y.

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

76 MONTAGUE STREET

BROOKLYN 1, N. Y.

4111684

April 21, 1955

Dr. Szentivanyi
Bureau Hongrois Pour La Protection
des Droits D'Auteur
Budapest VII, NYAR-U 6
Hungary

42-1A-133

Gentlemen:

I have your letter sent to Masses and Mainstream the 5th of April, 1955.

May I say that the chapter published in that periodical is the only one of my rather long novel that has seen print. The novel as yet has not been published in any language, nor have I made any arrangements for publication.

I shall, however, soon begin to explore the possibilities.

I shall be very glad to give you opportunity to consider the publication of my novel in Hungary. The rights there are still free and I shall certainly greatly appreciate consideration.

I thank you for your interest, and shall keep in touch with you.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

[Calif. Labor School]

Dr. Holland Roberts

Anniversary Celebration Committee

CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL ALUMNI & CO-WORKERS
321 Divisadero St.
San Francisco 17, California UNderhill 3-3023

Honorary Chairman
DR. FRANK WEYMOUTH

Dear Friend,

On June 4th, the alumni and teachers of the California Labor School will honor Dr. Holland Roberts on the occasion of his 60th birthday and 10th anniversary as director of education.

Assembled at the program will be hundreds of students and associates who have been inspired by the teachings and integrity of this teacher and educator who left his position as associate professor at Stanford University to join what he calls "the School of the future."

The program will include a presentation of the tributes and greetings from men and women who have known Dr. Holland Roberts as author, teacher and principal, as State President of the American Federation of Teachers (Calif.), Co-director of the Stanford Language Arts Investigation, as President of the National Council of Teachers of English, through his work with the John Dewey Society, Progressive Education Association, National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, President of American Russian Institute, delegate to the Warsaw Peace Congress, and as director of the California Labor School.

It is in this present capacity of director and teacher that we honor his positive contributions to education for peace and democracy and for a fuller cultural life for all people. His outspoken defense of academic freedom in the face of the School's citation for alleged subversive activities under the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950 is consistent with his rejection of any compliance with thought control.

We write to you as one who opposes the strangulating inroads made upon freedom of education and ask that you send a message to this courageous educator which will be presented to him as part of the June 4th Anniversary program.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Weymouth

FRANK W. WEYMOUTH
Honorary Chairman

upw34cio
1955/5

[California Labor School]

May 18, 1955

Dr. Frank Weymouth
321 Divisadero St.
San Francisco 17,
California

Dear Dr. Weymouth:

I shall be very glad to join you in celebrating the 60th birthday of Dr. Holland Roberts and his 10th anniversary as director of education in the California Labor School.

He has been a great and courageous teacher and there are very few such persons in the United States today.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-18-48

DEFENSE SUSTAINER DRIVE

100

california labor school

321 Divisadero • San Francisco 17 • UNderhill 3-3023

FOUNDED 1942
HOLLAND ROBERTS
DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco, December 6, 1955 - The California Labor School today released a statement by its director, Dr. Holland Roberts, in reply to an allegation by the Subversive Activities Control Board that its legal counsellor, George Andersen, was guilty of conduct "bordering on the contemptuous" for not appearing before the SACB in Washington yesterday.

"The School wishes to make it plain," Dr. Roberts said, "that from the first date that the Board called on us to show cause why we should not register as a 'subversive' organization, we have made our position clear.

"We informed the Board months ago that the School did not have the resources to send an attorney and witnesses to Washin ton, and petitioned for hearings to be held here.

"We also told the Board we had no intention of being a party to the destruction of this institution - which is the SACB's intention - by exhausting what slim resources we possess.

"Since the controversy between the Attorney General of the United States and Senator Harry Cain began, our own position has been reinforced. To wit: that all SACB procedures should wait upon the decision by the US Supreme Court (now pending) as to whether or not the McCarran Act is unconstitutional.

"The California Labor School has nothing to hide. It has been a public institution for 13 years and proudly proclaims its right to continue as an adult educational body devoted to the interests of working people in this area."

#####

the hearing date in San Francisco is Jan 9-

27-13-14

CAMERON ASSOCIATES, INC.

Publishers, 100 West 23rd Street, New York 11, N.Y. WAtkins 4-2706

May 31, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My dear Dr. DuBois,

I understand that you have almost finished your novel manuscript and that it is possible I might have the opportunity of reading it. As a matter of fact I would like to read it as a potential publisher. But if that is not possible, I would be glad to read it as a person interested in the manuscript who might be able to advise you about publication by one of the larger publishers.

Sincerely,

Angus Cameron

Angus Cameron

AC:ar

[CAMERON]

Liberty BOOK CLUB · INC.
100 WEST 23RD ST., NEW YORK 11, N. Y.
Telephone: WATKINS 4-2706

Friday

Dear Dr. DuBois,

I am sorry that I couldn't call this afternoon to make a firm date for our meeting. I had to see the Stanley Nowak's and by the time I was finished with them and the matter of their lawyers, etc. it was too late to make it.

I-41-24

I read your manuscript within ten days after getting it but I have fallen into the most dreadful business of not writing you or getting in touch with you to talk about it. I suppose because I am stumped by it. I tried it on several others - one of whom took quite long time to give me the script- and got similar reactions to mine which were, in effect that it is a remarkable book but not so remarkable a novel. At any rate, I have a good deal more to say about the book and about the things which might be done with publishers regarding it. I will come with my report when I get back from the weekend with my family.

Sincerely,

Angus Cameron

~~A History with Interpretative Fiction~~

A History interpreted by Fiction

In no case is known documented history displaced by fiction; but in some cases fiction has been invented to ~~isolate~~ supply unknown links in the chain as the author conceives it.

~~In no case does the fiction displace the history but in some cases fills the gaps~~ Good rule ~~The fiction does not~~ ~~be known by documented fact~~ rest on known facts

CAMERON ASSOCIATES, INC.

Publishers, 100 West 23rd Street, New York 11, N.Y. WAtkins 4-2706

June 2, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26 Street
New York 10, N.Y.

55-411-27

Dear Dr. DuBois,

I was very glad to have your letter of June 1 and learn more about the progress of the novel. I will look forward to the manuscript at the proper time, and I understand that I shall be reading it merely as a friendly editor rather than as a publisher to whom it has been submitted.

Sincerely,

Angus Cameron

Angus Cameron

AC:ar

41-16-171

CAMERON ASSOCIATES, INC.

Publishers, 100 West 23rd Street, New York 11, N.Y. WAtkins 4-2706

November 11, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois,

I have been trying to get a magazine to take the manuscript I am enclosing. The Nation has seen it, and Carey McWilliams writes me that he thinks "it is a terrific document from page six on," but that it suffers in style by falling between a simple, straightforward piece of writing by an average father and something more pretentious.

I agree that in style it is an unusual combination of sophistication (in the broad sense) and of the rather posy effort of a non-writer to write in a literary fashion.

But that could be handled. The point is that it is a powerful, tragic effort of a man to explain his son, remain loyal to his country, and criticize its terrible evils. I think it a remarkable document.

I told Mr. Sullivan I would send the manuscript to you. His address is 2434 Grant Street, Omaha 10, Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Angus Cameron

Angus Cameron (ar)

AC:ar
encl.

RESIDENCE
2247 MARION ST.

OFFICE
KEYSTONE 5965

THOS. CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
DENVER 5, COLORADO

March 29, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Our very dear friend;

Yesterday and today I was kept at home because of the deep snow storm all day and night, but it is thawing fast now.

While at home today, I was looking over the photos of old friends and happily I ran across your card, "Peace on Earth, Good will towards men." and since Lula has filed her petition and is running for the membership on the School Board in the election this spring I am sending you this announcement.

That photo of yourself that you sent us was wonderfully picturesque, and appealing, standing on a platform with outstretched arms in the middle of the stream.

Lula and I wish you good health and success.

Sincerely to both of you,

Tom Campbell

Lula and Tom

27-18-49

MacArthur

February 1, 1955

Carnegie Endowment For
International Peace
~~405 [illegible] Street~~ Un Plaza 46 St
New York, N.Y. 17

Gentlemen:

You are, of course, familiar with the address of General Douglass MacArthur at Los Angeles January 26th, 1955. General MacArthur is perhaps the outstanding military leader of the world today. When such a personage declares that war today is utterly useless, this is epoch-making.

I write to suggest that this entire speech be translated into all modern languages and distributed over the world. I trust you will give this idea serious attention.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-10-81

MacArthur

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

UNITED NATIONS PLAZA AT 46TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK
CABLE ADDRESS INTERPAX

February 21, 1955

W. E. B. DuBois, Esq.
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Mr. DuBois:

General Douglass MacArthur's address of January 26 was indeed a fine one, and parts of it will certainly be quoted and remembered for some time to come.

However, any scheme of printing or distribution which we might devise here would not begin to approach the distribution which the address received through the press and other periodicals.

Further, like any comparable organization, we work under the limitation of a restricted income, most of which is accounted for by projects already begun.

Thank you for thinking of the Carnegie Endowment with respect to your suggestion, and I am sorry that in this instance it is not possible to adopt your plan.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Paffrath
Secretary

27-10-84

27-18-51

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

FX-1201

(43)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
=Int'l Letter Telegram
T=Int'l Victory Ltr.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

1955 MAR 3 PM 5 49

NBA257 RX PD=WASHINGTON DC 3 510PME=

DR W E B DUBOISE=

31 [redacted] GRACE [redacted]=CT

:W JUSTI CARTER JR 1901 HURR STREET HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA PASSED ON WEDNESDAY EVENING=.

JEANETTE CARTER=

:NTO PC=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

April 18, 1955

Mrs. Justin Carter, Jr.
1901 Hurr Street
Harrisburg, Pa.

My dear Mrs. Carter:

Jeannette wired news of the death of your husband early in March, but the wire found us out of the country. We had gone to Haiti for a rest of a month, and when I received the telegram it was too late to answer immediately.

I venture to write now, hoping that the letter will find you. I am so sorry to hear of your husband's premature death, and I and my wife join in deepest condolence. I hope in some way you will still be able to carry on his work and realize his ideals.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-18-52

December 28, 1955

Center Book Service
206 West 15 Street
New York 11, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Will you please send me the following books, with discounts:

Daniel Webster Wynn, "The NAACP vs. Negro Revolutionary Protest," Exposition Press.

E. David Cronon, "Black Moses," University of Wisconsin Press.

Joseph Lewis, "Thomas Paine, author of the Declaration of Independence." Free Thought Press Association.

George Thomson, "The Foreseeable Future," Cambridge University Press.

W. H. Lewis, "The Sunset of the Splendid Century," Sloane Associates.

Keepnews and Grauer, "Pictorial History of Jazz," Crown Publishers.

Rudolf Ceper, "Failure of a Revolution," Cambridge University Press.

Harvey O'Connor, "The Empire of Oil," Monthly Review Press.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

42/18/32

April 18, 1955

Chemical Corn Exchange Bank
Fifth Avenue Branch
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

The check signed by Shirley Graham Du Bois, #733, December 11, 1954, made out in favor of Mrs. Paul E. Magloire, for $20, has never been cashed and is presumably lost.

Will you kindly cancel payment on it.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-6-53

January 6, 1955

Mr. Henry A. Cheney
Marco Polo Hotel
Polo, Illinois

My dear Mr. Cheney:

I got a letter from you last August but I have been writing a long novel and this letter must have got lost in the manuscript.

At any rate, I have just come across it and am writing not so much an answer as an apology.

I have your faith in the Chinese. I am sure they are going to point the way to the world, but just what can and ought to be done with regard to money is a little too intricate for me to settle. I am inclined to believe that script, printed by the government and carefully regulated, will form the best internal medium of exchange.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-11-19

[1955]

Dear Dr. Du Bois,

I enjoyed the stirring chapter MANSART which appeared in Masses and Mainstream. The writing was beautiful, the characters were exciting, and the work held me from beginning to end.

This brief note is just to let you know the deep appreciation I feel for what you have done in the past and for this beautiful and inspiring work which you now give the American people. I hope you find a good publisher.

If there is anything I can ever do to help promote the sale of the book, do call on me. Of course I shall remember to buy my copy.

Sincerely,

Alice Childress

Alice Childress

11-11-87

800 Riverside Drive

March 21, 1955

New York 32, N. Y.

March 25, 1955

Miss Alice Childress
800 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 32

Dear Miss Childress:

Thank you for your kind letter about the novel.

When and where it may be published, of course, I do not know, but there have been some encouraging readers of this particular chapter.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:LH

[Chinese People's Committee for World Peace]

January 31, 1955

Kuo Mo Jo
Government Administrative Council
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Kuo Mo Jo:

On January 26 General Mac Arthur, celebrating his seventy-fifth birthday at Los Angeles, made the speech which, as reported by THE HERALD TRIBUNE, is enclosed.

This is the first time that a great American military leader has denounced war. I write to suggest that this speech be translated into all modern languages and distributed over the world.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

[Chinese People's Comm. - - -]

中國人民保衛世界和平委員會
COMITE DU PEUPLE CHINOIS POUR LA DEFENSE DE LA PAIX MONDIALE
Китайский Народный Комитет защиты мира
CHINESE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE FOR WORLD PEACE

地址：北京台基廠九號
Add. 9 Tai Chi Chang
Peking, China

電號掛號 1627
Cable Sinopeace

March 8, 1955

Dr. W.E.B.DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Your letter of January 31 and the enclosed newspaper clipping of General MacArthur's speech has been received. Thank you very much.

You may be glad to hear that in response to the recent call of the World Peace Council to ban the atomic weapons the Chinese people have started a nation-wide movement to sign the appeal against the atomic weapons. This movement is gathering momentum and spreading far and wide in the whole nation.

The "World Assembly of Representatives of All Organisations and Tendencies for Peace"to be held in Helsinki this coming May will doubtless further advance the cause of world peace. We hope we would be able to see you at this meeting.

Best wishes for your health,

Sincerely yours,

郭沫若

Kuo Mo-jo

(Chairman)

27-178-16

March 28, 1955

Mr. Kuo Mo-jo
Chinese People's Committee for World Peace
9 Tai Chi Chang
Peking, China

My dear Sir:

I thank you for your letter of March 8th and I hasten to reply because I am afraid that so many of our friends abroad think that the failure of the United States to be represented at the last meeting of the Peace Congress arises from some carelessness or lack of interest. This is untrue.

A large number of Americans are painfully aware of the role that this nation is playing as a war monger. We are bitterly opposed to it and are doing everything in our power to stem the tide, but we are at present largely powerless because the nation is under the control of the army and big industrial organizations.

Nevertheless we are continuing to fight. Organizations like the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship; National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions; the Council on African Affairs; the Civil Rights Congress and other organizations are keeping up our efforts.

However, it is still practically impossible for me or any other well-known advocate of Peace, the recognition of China, and friendship with Russia, to secure a passport for foreign travel. I have tried to attend every Peace Congress since the great meeting in 1949 but have been refused permission to do so. I should be only too happy to be present at Helsinki and to join my voice with yours and that of our friends in speaking for world peace and against the criminal effort to ruin civilization by atomic war. This permission I am certain the United States will not grant me although I shall continue to ask.

Probably you know of this, and yet I am sometimes afraid that our friends abroad do not quite realise the conditions under which we are living and working today in this "free democracy of the west." I am therefore taking this opportunity to emphasise the situation and I hope you will make it known in China and at Helsinki.

With best wishes,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-178-17

41-19С-21

С Новым годом!

[1955]

Wishing you a happy
New Year.
Best wishes of health,
Yours,
Konstantin A. Chugunov,
VOKS.

Mr. William E. B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, N.Y.
U.S.A.

The Citadel Press · 120 EAST 25TH ST. · NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

222 FOURTH AVE.
NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

GRAMERCY 3-0039 CABLE ADDRESS · DELCIT

February 28, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. DuBois:

We take pleasure in sending you, under separate cover, at the author's request a reading copy of THE SEARCHING LIGHT by Martha Dodd.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the book, and would appreciate any comment you wish to make.

Sincerely yours,

THE CITADEL PRESS

Philip S. Foner

PSF:ksf Philip S. Foner

27-18-54

Linus Pauling

FRANK W. WEYMOUTH

May 6, 1955

Dear Friend:

Linus Pauling will be honored by the Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms at a dinner in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 4, 1955.

On this occasion, he will be presented with a scroll of friendship reflecting his world-wide esteem. The following is the wording of the scroll.

LINUS PAULING

Citizen and Scientist

Science, together with all other worthwhile human activities, flourishes only in an atmosphere of basic freedom, trust and purposeful endeavor.

American liberties, accepted as a matter of course for more than a century and a half in the United States, have in recent years fallen under serious attack. In the name of "security" the Bill of Rights has been circumvented. Ours is a period of turmoil and confusion.

However, in a manner characteristic of periods of crisis and transition, gains and losses for human rights crowd and jostle one another. Nevertheless, a steady eye can see a pattern, widespread but not yet general, which promises that man will surmount this passing crisis and turn his genius again to achieve fuller freedom for his fellow men.

To weather the change from fear to freedom we must have citizens of uncorruptible principle, inspired by the basic needs of an advancing society.

What better example of courageous citizenship have we than Linus Pauling. In his simplicity, sincerity, a clear sense of relative values and respect for human dignity have combined to furnish the fertile soil for a science beneficial to all mankind. His citizenship symbolizes those American traditions which will insure to us all a rebirth of freedom.

We feel certain that you, too, will want your name included on the scroll. May we therefore request you to sign the enclosed envelope and mail today.

Sincerely,

F. W. Weymouth

FRANK W. WEYMOUTH

Professor Emeritus of Stanford University

108

[CITRON]

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

The enclosed was a surprise

I assume you get Phylon

Dr. Reddick reviewed "The Souls of Black Folk."

If you don't have it I'll be glad to send it.

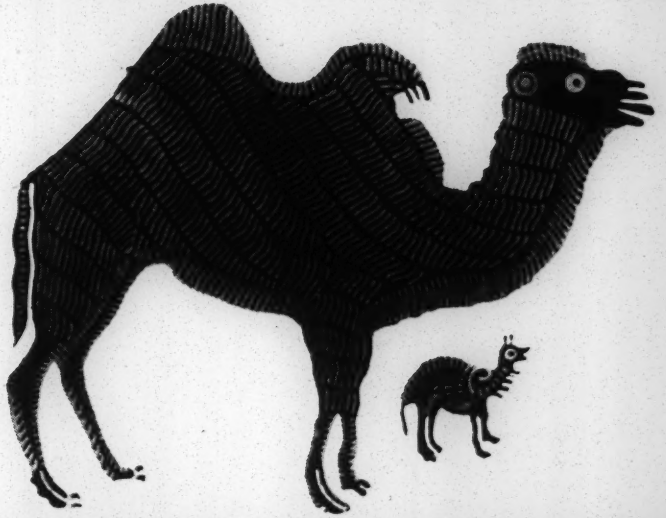
With love,

Alice

BACTRIAN CAMEL

Detail of a Javanese batik, early XIX century

The Metropolitan Museum of Art



February 23, 1955

Miss Alice Citron
1406 Townsend Avenue
Bronx 52, New York

Dear Miss Citron:

Thank you for the clipping.

I have the PHYLON review.

Shirley and I hope to be off Saturday for Haiti.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

[Civil Liberties Union]

March 22, 1955

Civil Liberties Union
Mr. Patrick Murphy Malin, Exec. Dir.
170 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Malin:

Enclosed is a letter which came to my office during my absence.

It seems to me a genuine case of injustice.

I have written the writer of the letter, a copy of which I enclose.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

re: Laune Shaw

CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS

SUITE 200 • 6 EAST 17th STREET • NEW YORK 3, N. Y. • WAtkins 4-6856

WILLIAM L. PATTERSON
National Executive Secretary

February 1, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I am requesting that you be our guest at the Victory Dinner for William L. Patterson, to be held on Thursday evening, February 10th at 7 p.m. at Small's Paradise, 135th Street and Seventh Avenue.

Not only will the staff of the Civil Rights Congress, and Mr. Patterson himself, appreciate a greeting from you, but our entire audience will be happy to know that you can participate with us that evening.

With every kind regard for yourself and Shirley, I await your affirmative answer.

Yours very truly,

Angie Dickerson

Angie Dickerson,
For the Committee

AD/rr

27-1-78

CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS

SUITE 200 • 6 EAST 17th STREET • NEW YORK 3, N. Y. • WAtkins 4-6856

WILLIAM L. PATTERSON
National Executive Secretary

March 24, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Since November 29, 1954 the Department of Justice has attempted to prove before the Subversive Activities Control Board that the Civil Rights Congress is a "Communist Front" organization. We expect to open our affirmative defense before the SACB on April 5, 1955 in New York City.

As part of that defense, we expect to show that as a result of the activities of the Department of Justice since the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the rights of the American people, as incorporated in the Bill of Rights and the Civil War Amendments, have seriously deteriorated.

Part of that deterioration was the "Foreign Agent" Case. Because of your intimate connection with that case, we are asking you to testify at this hearing in our behalf. The testimony would revolve around the questions of what the case was all about and the role and activities of CRC in support of the defense.

May I hear from you as quickly as possible?

Very truly yours,
Wm. Albertson
William Albertson

27-4-4

March 25, 1955

Mr. William Albertson
Civil Rights Congress
Suite 200
6 East 17 Street
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Albertson:

I think your request of March 24th is most unreasonable and I cannot assent to it. You ask me to appear as a witness for the Civil Rights Congress against the charge that it is a Communist front organization. For this purpose you want me to testify on the vague general assertion that civil liberties in the United States have deteriorated in the last ten years. This everybody knows. But you ask me to adduce proof of this in my own case, which I won and where civil liberties were upheld!

You invite me to testify as to what the Civil Rights Congress did in my defense. You are the ones to furnish this testimony. I did not receive the money. It went to my defense organization and every penny was accounted for. I am grateful for the help you and others gave, but I cannot testify as to what was given. I do not know what action your organization as such took.

William Patterson and the Civil Rights Congress have my sympathy and my services when needed, but I am too old and too busy to be dragged into court when my testimony is neither necessary nor logical.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-4-5

JAMES A. COBB
613 F STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

June 26, 1955

My dear Shirley:

Your letter to Mr. Hayes of date June 8, 1955, respecting the obtaining of a passport for your good husband, Dr. DuBois, has been handed to me by Mr. Hayes for investigation.

I have taken the matter up with Mr. Ashley Nicholas of the State Department, whom I know very well, and called his attention to the late rulings of our Court and also assured him of my personal knowledge of Dr. DuBois. He informed me if Dr. DuBois will make an affidavit that "he is not, nor ever has been a member of the Communist Party", he is quite sure that a passport will be granted. Should you desire, I will follow up the matter to the end that a passport be granted to your husband.

I am doing this as a friend and because I believe Dr. DuBois deserves to be honored at the World Youth Festival which will be held in Warsaw, Poland, and is entitled to a passport without inhibitions.

Very sincerely yours,

James A. Cobb

Mrs. Shirley G. DuBois
Thirty-one Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

P. S. Since writing this note, the State Department has just informed me that that meeting in Poland is a Communistic meeting and requested that I get further information concerning Dr. DuBois' trip. Please advise me.

J. A. C.

42-14-93

32 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York
June 27, 1955

26-41-24

Judge James A. Cobb
613 F Street, N.W.
Washington 4, D.C.

My dear Judge Cobb:

I did not know that Shirley had written Mr. Hayes until she handed me your letter this morning. I appreciate her interest in my happiness; I appreciate your efforts as an understanding and sympathetic friend. But principles and rights far beyond the personal are involved here.

I am a free-born citizen of the United States for many generations back. For nearly seventy-five years I have worked, produced and paid taxes in this land of my birth. Now, I simply refuse to beg, crawl and sign affidavits for the inalienable right to travel, "to go from place to place as the means of transportation permit." Enclosed is a copy of the letter from Warsaw setting forth my invitation to the "World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship". This heading at the top of the page appears in six languages which gives some indication of the wide scope of this gathering. Every political, religious and racial group will be represented. Certainly denial of passports to me and my wife will in no sense further the cause of democracy. Since I have already accepted their invitation I shall certainly have to tell the world if I am prevented from attending. They now know that my wife will have to accompany me.

You probably know that Shirley is a graduate of Oberlin College and in her own right has done much creditable work. Her books for young people about distinguished Negroes are being read by thousands: George Washington Carver, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, to name a few. The State Department has distributed her George Washington Carver throughout the Near East, India, Africa and South America. It will seem strange indeed to her young readers from these lands should they learn that she could not get a passport to accompany me to their World Festival.

I have been wanting to make another extended trip to Europe. When this invitation came I accepted with pleasure since we had planned to apply for passports soon. Now, we'll keep this application in and keep trying. I remain a firm believer in the ultimate triumph of Justice.

All good wishes and many thanks.

Yours very truly,

Committee to Defend Choon Cha and Chungsoon Kwak
515 West 111 Street • Suite 3F • New York 25, N. Y.

41-16-23

December 27, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, New York

My dear Dr. Du Bois:

As I said to you this noon, on the telephone, we of the Committee to Defend the Kwaks are most anxious to have you as our principal speaker at a dinner we are giving on January 21st, Saturday, at the Hotel Great Northern in order to raise funds.

I am enclosing the appeal which we are sending out as a preliminary announcement of the dinner, for your information.

Should you wish it, sometime before the event, someone from the Committee will discuss with you any aspect of the case on which you are uninformed. However, without consulting with other members of the Committee, I would venture to say that we are perfectly happy to have you speak on any topic of any relevance to the occasion, knowing as I do that whatever you say is always of great importance.

I hope that you will find it possible to speak for us; will you also let us know about your fee.

With warm regards to you, and love to Shirley,

Very sincerely

Louise Mally
Secretary

From: 60 East 9th St.
New York, 3, N.Y.

Committee to End Sedition Laws
212 Forbes Building
Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

May 23, 1955

Dear Friend:

We are certain it is not necessary to recount for you the facts attendant upon the trial and 20 year sentence of Steve Nelson under the Pennsylvania Anti-Sedition Law. You are undoubtedly acquainted with the fact that this conviction and the law itself was nullified by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court; that the Pennsylvania Attorney-General appealed this ruling to the U. S. Supreme Court supported by amicus briefs from the attorneys-general of 26 states. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the portrait of Mr. Nelson's trial and imprisonment contained in "The 13th Juror" ought to be read for a full picture of a "sedition" case in the U. S. A. today. Regardless of one's attitude towards Mr. Nelson's political views, we are sure you will find his book challenging.

We have taken the liberty of attaching a copy of Mr. Nelson's book with the hope that you will be moved to express your opinion about it or about the sedition case. Should you have any suggestion as to an effective use of the book in our campaign to prevent the validation of all sedition acts, we would be most happy to hear from you. Above all, your comments, brief or extensive, either on the book or on the case itself, would be most welcome. Mr. Robert W. Kenny, ex-Attorney-General of California, reacting to the sedition case recently wrote us, "You may quote me as saying that sedition laws and our First Amendment can not co-exist".

Sincerely,

Allan D. McNeil
Secretary

Dear Dr. DuBois —
When you've read this
book, we would appreciate
getting your reaction to it.

COMMITTEE TO FURTHER THE GOALS OF GENEVA
166 W. Washington St. - Room 312
Chicago 2, Illinois

October 17, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Thank you very much for sending the print which we used. Announcements of the meeting on October 28th are now being circulated. One is enclosed for your interest. We are enclosing also the print as you may want to use it again. We are very sorry the printer spoiled somewhat the pidture on the announcement by burning the plate as you will see from the smudge on it.

Plans for the meeting are progressing. Mr. Lawrence Scott, Peace Education Director of the American Friends Service Society here, will speak fairly briefly in the first part of the meeting. He will discuss the disarmament proposals before the United Nations and the Foreign Ministers Conference.

We expect to have at least one other meeting for you - a fairly large house gathering - over the week-end. The group has not yet decided whether this will be Saturday or Sunday evening, and I will let you know about this as soon as we know. We wanted also for the United Packinghouse Workers to have you speak, and they also wanted very much to arrange this but find they cannot because of other activities at that time. However, they will try to have as many of their members as possible attend the meeting on Friday evening.

We have engaged a room for you at the Midland Hotel as we thought this would be convenient. Do you want us to make the arrangements for your transportation to Chicago and return? We will be glad to do this if you will let us know what time you wish to leave New York and whether by train or plane. If you prefer to make your own arrangements, we will send the expense of the transportation to you in advance.

Also if there are any friends you wish to get in touch with while you are here, we will be glad to help in making these arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy M. Hayes

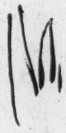
Dorothy M. Hayes
For the Committee

Enclosures

27-10-116

94.27
#10 Tape + Tube Mfg
105.

11 Ann Arbor @ 12
La Guardia
Gen 2.15



Come Oct 27, @ 2.15 h Aus

RT $94.24 Plus Cdso Lds N.Y. Ends

Return

Ready Sept

Slacks

Pullover

Dark Suit + Evening Night #50

Leave Monday

COMMITTEE TO FURTHER THE GOALS OF GENEVA
166 W. Washington St. - Room 312
Chicago 2, Illinois

November 3, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

Dear Dr. Bu Bois:

42-19-10

It was good to have your prompt letter and to know that your return trip was satisfactory. Thank you for the refund. We hope you fully allowed for all expenses you had because that is what we wanted you to do.

It was a real privilege to have you speak here and we all thank you very much. We appreciate the effort and time involved for you. In fact, our thanks are due to you, and not yours to us. Many people have spoken to us about their interest in your talks, and our regret is that many more did not hear you. We are sorry also that we did not plan a more interesting week-end for you (in spite of the bad weather). We look forward to having you here another time and Mrs. Du Bois with you.

Our Committee has a meeting the middle of this month and we will discuss then what plans we can make for a good distribution of your speech. If we can work out such plans, we will write you for the speech. I think we can do this, and certainly should.

I have been thinking about the ideas you mentioned in regard to continuing work for peace and will have these in mind when we discuss how our work will go on here.

Thank you again for the nice invitation to call on you and Mrs. Du Bois when I am in New York and I shall certainly try to do this the next time I am there.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Hayes

Dorothy M. Hayes

January 6, 1955

Dr. Alpheus Hunton
Cou Council on African Affairs
139 West 125 Street
New York, 27, N.Y.

Dear Alpheus:

Here are two letters asking for data about Africa. Perhaps you can send something.

Enclosed is the article which I promised. I made it short although I hope it is not too short.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

enc.

2-7-60

27-17-59

COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

139 West 125th Street, New York 27, New York

Paul Robeson, Chairman . W.E.B. Du Bois, Vice Chairman . W.A. Hunton, Secretary

Jan. 7, 1955

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Many thanks for the article, received today. It is very fine, though I am sorry I said "short." I'm sure our readers will feel a bit disappointed not having more of you.

The enclosed came today.

Sincerely,

Alphaeus

June 9, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

The officers of the Council on African Affairs most urgently request your presence at a special meeting of the Executive Board to be held

Tuesday, June 14, 1955, at 2 p.m.
at the office of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois
23 West 26th Street, New York.

The business of this meeting is of major importance, and your participation is imperative.

It is therefore our earnest hope that you will arrange your affairs so that nothing will interfere with your attendance.

Very sincerely yours,

Alphaeus

W. A. Hunton
Secretary

41-105-7

[1955] [Crawford, Alice Davis]

Dear Cousin William

I hope that you've had a Happy Birthday. I had expected to get by to see you, but unexpected I was called to Sub today. In as much as this is the 1st time since Feb 7th I took it.

We've been in with Virus etc.

Lots of love to Shirley. I had some cakes but decided not to leave them but thought you could certainly eat the fruit. Heaps of love Alice

LE PETIT FORÊT STUDIO

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APPLICATION BLANK

Students, parents or guardians of childred are requested to fill out and sign application.

Name.....Child's Age.....

Address.....

Apt.....City.....Phone.....

Subject or Course desired.....

I agree to pay for a month's instruction in advance.

Signature.....

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You and your friends are cordially invited to attend the FALL OPENING of LE PETIT FORÊT STUDIO
230 McDonough Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., near Sumner Ave.
Sunday, October 30th, 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. PROGRAM AT 6 P.M.
Try to bring a friend who will register for one or more courses.

Alice D. Crawford - Hostess

P.S. - Our Future Stars and Kiddie Clubs meet here daily, from 9:30 - 11:30 for childred under 7. Join Us!

41-192-14

Birthday Greetings
from
Alice & Fred

Alice

[1955]

Czechoslovak Committee for the Establishment of a Garden of Peace and Friendship in Lidice

Secretariat: Prague II, Panská 7.

TELEPHONE: 23 30 56
CABLE: LIDICEROSES PRAGUE

CHAIRMAN
Prof. J. L. Hromádka
VICE-CHAIRMAN
Helena Leflerová, M. P.
Lidice

Mr.

Dr. W.E. DU BOIS
31, Grace Court,
Brooklyn 2
NEW YORK

Dear Friend,

At a time pregnant with hopes and fears, when man has mastered a novel source of energy which is capable of either turning our planet into a flowering garden or into a desert waste without the slightest sign of life, a beautiful idea has been conceived. British citizens decided to raise a fund for the purchase of several thousand rose bushes for a rosegarden of friendship in Lidice.

During the Second World War the name of the Czech village of Lidice became known throughout the world. After the SS-Ober-Gruppenführer Heydrich, Hitler's henchman in the Nazi „Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia" had been killed, the Nazi army extreminated Lidice in an effort to force the Czech people to cease their resistance to the occupying forces. The village of Lidice consisted of 101 houses and 501 inhabitants. On June 9th, 1942, just before midnight, the Nazis herded all the inhabitants out of their houses, putting men, women and children into separate groups. The following day the 196 women were sent to a concentration camp at Ravensbrück, the children were removed to Germany and the 173 men and young lads were shot on the spot. Sixty women never returned from the concentration camp and 82 children disappeared in Germany. There is evidence that the emaciated children were probably put to death in the gas-chambers of the Chelmno concentration camp, where the Nazis extreminated hundreds of thousands children during the course of the war.

The village of Lidice was razed to the ground, leaving no traces. The Jewish citizens who were forced by the Nazis to carry out the demolition of Lidice were also sent to the gas-chambers. Detailed documentary evidence of this mass crime was found in the Gestapo archives after the war.

Lidice, as one of the first victims of the raving fury of Nazism, became an international symbol of resistance to Nazism. Hundreds of places have since shared the same terrible fate in similar criminal acts of war.

After the war a new, modern Lidice was built near the site of the destroyed village. The Czechoslovak Government allotted a new house with modern fittings to every woman inhabitant of Lidice who returned. To-day a happy, joyful life is flourishing once again in the new Lidice. The site of the destroyed village is being turned into a memorial. Tens of thousands of visitors from all parts of Czechoslovakia and abroad have been there to pay silent tribute to the martyrs of Lidice. And a Rose-garden of Peace and Friendship is to be planted in the very place which divides the mass grave of the men and lads of Lidice from the new village.

The Rose-garden will consist of rose bushes contributed by the British friends of Lidice and of roses and other appropriate plants, trees and bushes, contributed from all other countries where this noble idea is meeting with response. The garden will be opened on the occasion of the next Lidice anniversary, that is on June 10th, 1955.

In Czechoslovakia this plan is being carried out under the auspices of the Czechoslovak Committee for the Establishment of a Garden of Peace and Friendship in Lidice.

We take the liberty of sending you this committee's proclamation in the firm belief that the noble and humane idea which inspires the plan will receive your support and that your name will be among the founders of the garden.

We shall very much appreciate your reply.

On behalf of the Czechoslovak Committee for the Establishment of a Garden of Peace and Friendship in Lidice,

Helena Leflerová, Lidice
Member of the Czechoslovak National Assembly
Vice-chairman.

Professor Josef L. Hromádka,
Dean of Komenský's theological faculty, Prague
Chairman

27-18-55

[1955]

PROCLAMATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK COMMITTEE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GARDEN OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP IN LIDICE

Next year the freedom-loving nations will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the great common victory over the dark forces of fascist barbarism. Together with all honest, peace-loving people throughout the world, we shall commemorate this glorious victory with joy and gratitude. Once again we shall recall the whole monstrosity of fascism, its inhuman crimes and designs with which it threatened us and all other nations. We shall remember the drama of the historic struggle for the future of mankind, in which victory was gained through the unity, courage and sacrifice of the nations. We shall bow to the memory of those who laid down their lives in this struggle in order to make possible a victory which would lay the foundations of a lasting peace throughout the world.

Our country experienced in full measure and at first hand the brutality of fascism and militarism. As part of the policy of appeasement, Czechoslovakia was one of the first countries to be sacrificed and was left to the mercies of aggressive fascism. The peoples of Czechoslovakia, like all other nations standing in the way of Hitler's aspirations to world domination, were to be exterminated. The fate of Lidice, a minig village barbarously razed to the ground, was meant to show what the fate would be of the Czechs and Slovaks and all other nations that might dare to rise against the occupying forces.

The crime against Lidice aroused the conscience of all nations and of all just people throughout the world, Lidice became a symbol known to all mankind. It was one of the sources of common hate, of common determination to carry on the struggle to final victory and made people determined to punish the fascist crimes as they deserved and to prevent their repetition.

We shall celebrate the tenth anniversary of this victory with peaceful labour, whose purpose is to provide a joyful happy life for all. The traces of the wartime horrors have been removed and a new, more beautiful Lidice has been built. Similarly in other countries the ruins have been cleared away and new buildings have gone up in their place, trees and gardens are blossoming once again. With new hopes and endeavours the nations are trying to develop their creative forces so as to build a peaceful future and a happy life.

Yet once again peace and the noble endeavours of mankind are being threatened. In some parts of the world, towns and villages are being destroyed, men, women and children, are again being murdered. Once again dark forces are at work which are undermining and trying to break the unity of the nations of the world and of mankind. But above all, these dark forces, for the furtherance of their own aims, are trying to rehabilitate and rearm the Hitlerite murderers. The criminals of Lidice, Oradour, Auschwitz and Majdanek are again to be given arms and power to control not only the fate of Western Germany but also that of the countries of Western Europe. Once again they are to be enabled to engulf Europe in the flames of war and to prepare new and more terrible Lidices.

Mankind must not allow this to happen!

The tenth anniversary of the victory over fascism must be an expression of the solidarity of the forces of life against death. Alongside all honest, peace-loving people, we not only wish to remember but also to fight and work for the renewal, the maintenance and the strengthening of the unity which was the basis and the guarantee of victory in 1945.

We gladly and gratefully accept the iniative of our British friends, who propose to establish a rose-garden in rebuilt Lidice, as a permanent, living symbol of this unity. The flames and ashes of the Lidice that was destroyed united millions in their anger and determination to destroy fascism. May roses, sown by peace-loving people in rebuilt Lidice, serve to unite many more millions in the noble effort of strengthening peace and averting the danger of a new war and new crimes of fascism. May these Lidice roses blossom forth abundantly as a symbol of the firm friendship of the nations and their determination to safeguard the security and freedom of all mankind.

27-8-56

January 10, 1955

Professor Josef L. Hromadka
Czechoslovak Committee for the Establishment
of a Garden of Peace and Friendship in Lidice
Panska 7
Prague II
Czechoslovakia

Sir:

I am greatly interested in the Garden of Peace and Friendship in Lidice, and would be glad to have my name among the founders of the garden.

I wish that I could contribute financially but I am unable to do this. However, my book, "In Battle for Peace" is being published in Czechoslovakia and therefore possibly my name alone would help in some degree.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

27-8-57

[Czechoslovak Theatrical---]

April 29, 1955

Dr. Vojtech Strnad
Czechoslovak Theatrical and Literary Agency
Vyschradska 28
Prague II
Czechoslovakia

42-41-24
48-41-84

My dear Dr. Strnad:

I have your letter of April 20th concerning my novel, a chapter of which was published in "Masses and Mainstream."

May I say that the whole novel has not yet been published but that as soon as possible I will send you a copy of the manuscript in English for your consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. B. Du Bois

DB:lh

CZECHOSLOVAK THEATRICAL AND LITERARY AGENCY

Telegrams: DILIAG, Prague.
Phone 23-51-40, 23-45-73, 23-46-20

VYŠEHRADSKÁ 28, PRAGUE II
Czechoslovakia

Mr. W.E.B. Du Bois,
31 Grace Court,
Brooklyn, New York.

V-
8.7.1955

Dear Mr. Du Bois,

42-29-101

We have pleasure in informing you that we have just instructed the State Bank of Czechoslovakia to transfer to you the sum of

Kčs 403,75 in US dollars,

as the royalties for a Czech edition of IN BATTLE FOR PEACE by W.E.Du Bois published by Messrs. Melantrich of Prague. The edition consists of 3.000 copies priced at Kčs 18,--.

5% for 1.730 copies à Kčs 18,--	Kčs	1.557,--
less the advance already paid	"	1.080,--
	Kčs	477,--
less 10% of our agency commission	"	47,70
	Kčs	429,30
less 3% of taxes	"	12,88
	Kčs	416,42
less 2% of the fee to the literary funds	"	8,59
	Kčs	407,83
less 1% of the transfer expenses	"	4,08
	Kčs	403,75

Kindly acknowledge the receipt.

Sincerely yours,

Czechoslovak Theatrical
and Literary Agency

J. Polan

Sčt. 01-K - 1366 - 55 - P

In honor of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois

[Czechoslovakia]

41-19E-20

The Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia
to the United Nations
and Mrs. Jiří Nosek

request the pleasure of the company of

Mr. David Graham McCanns

at a buffet-dinner
on Monday, February 21st, 1955
at 7.30 p. m.

441 West End Ave
New York 24, N. Y.
Apt. 4A

R.S.V.P.
Trafalgar 9-2020
TR 7-5044 (home)

Informal

27-18-58

[Czechoslovakia]

In Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary
of the Liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army

The Ambassador of Czechoslovakia
and Madame Karel Petrželka
request the honor of the company of
Dr. and Mrs. W. E. B. Du Bois
at a reception
on Monday, the ninth of May
from seven to nine o'clock
at the Embassy

R. S. V. P.
2349 Massachusetts Avenue

[Czechoslovakia]

April 27, 1955

The Ambassador of Czechoslovakia
and Madame Karel Petrselka
2349 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dr. and Mrs. W.E.B. Du Bois regret that they are unable to accept the invitation of the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia and Madame Karel Petrselka for Monday, the ninth of May.

They beg to send their congratulations on the Tenth Anniversary of the Liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army.

69-18-27

THE DAN-AMERICA ARCHIVES

Address all communications to:
SV. WAENDELIN,
Archivist

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THE ARCHIVES LIBRARY

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Librarian and Archivist in Charge
SVEND WAENDELIN

KØBENHAVN Ø., DENMARK
8. KRISTIANIAGADE

February 24th, 1955.

Mr.
W.E.B. Du Bois, Author.
23. West 26th Str.
New York 10. N.Y.

Dear Mr.Du Bois:

I thank you very much for the three interesting volumes you have sent me, they arrived to-day and I am very glad to be able to add them to our American Library. Separately I am sending you some illustrated pamphlets pertaining to this small kingdom, maybe you have grandchildren or some young friends, who will like to look them through.

Thanking you again for your kindness and generosity

I am with kind regards

very sincerely yours

Sv. Waendelin

27-18-60

April 18, 1955

Mr. Eugene Davidson
1333 R Street NW
Washington, D.C.

My dear Eugene:

Someone came up from Washington to our house the other day and was talking about you, and to my great surprise intimated that you felt that we had not treated you just fairly in the book about the trial because we had not mentioned by name and in other ways the fine hospitality which you proffered us.

Perhaps this is merely gossip and exaggeration. But for fear that there may be something in it, let me say that I was very careful not to mention your name and not to say too much where I had stayed because I was afraid that it might hurt you in your business. The attitude of Ophelia and some of my other Washington friends made me realise what a dangerous acquaintance I was, and therefore I was careful not to mention either your name or that of your wife and simply incidentally and in passing to say that we were taken in while others were afraid.

If I had known or suspected that you were willing for me to go into greater detail, I should have been only too glad to do so.

As I say, perhaps all this is merely unwarranted gossip, and yet I could not let the possibility go by without saying at least a word to you concerning it.

Shirley joins me in best regards to you and your wife. We have both just returned from a three week's trip to Haiti which was a beautiful experience.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

69-174-69

HOME SALES | INVESTMENTS | PROPERTY MANAGEMENT | FINANCING | INSURANCE

EUGENE DAVIDSON
INCORPORATED
•
REALTISTS

1238 U STREET, N. W. | WASHINGTON, D. C. | HOBART 2-7576

April 27, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
23 West 26th Street
New York 10, N. Y.

My dear Dr. DuBois:

I hasten to answer your recent letter relative to your last visit to our home. I regret exceedingly that you apparently have not realized that our mutual friend, George, is puckish even to the extent of sometimes seeming sadistic. His mischievous purpose could only have been to watch your brilliant mind react to such an alleged situation. His suggestions to you as related in your letter, concerning our feelings are inaccurate and reflect on both our innate courage and sense of publicity values.

27-178-19

The facts are as follows:

1. Our invitation to you to visit with us during a very trying period in your life was sincere and absolutely without ulterior motives. The invitation was motivated solely by a deep sense of friendship which began many years ago when over a period of years you made the home of my mother and father your Washington home. That such a friendship should be broken merely because of a possible difference in ideologies to me was inconceivable.

2. We were fully aware of the hysteria which besets the country at this time and of unwarranted implications of association. This did not prevent us from welcoming you and your wife as our personal guests, nor did it prevent me from being an interested spectator at the trial.

3. Neither Edmonia nor I are seekers of publicity. We resent, even, newspaper publicity on our guests from foreign embassies. It would be absurd for us to have desired mention

in your book of your visit to our home by identification of your hosts. Frankly, I think it wise that you did not do so, merely because there are so many bigots who could and would misinterpret our basic reason.

4. Our only reaction to this portion of your splendid book was that instead of relating that courageous friends had made you and Shirley welcome in spite of the atmosphere, you used the words "boarding and lodging" which negated the friendship motive and by connotation suggested that you paid for our hospitality. Moreover, we both felt that without mentioning names, history should record that the man who had contributed so much to the race struggle did have such friends in his darkest hour.

Edmonia sends her best regards to you and Shirley and joins with me in inviting you to be our guests whenever you can come to Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene Davidson

27-176-20

[1955]

COPY

Address all Letters to: Name Benjamin Jo. Davis
c/o Allegheny County Jail, Ross Street,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF RELATIVES OF INMATES

TO: Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois No. 81 Grace Court

City Brooklyn State N.Y.

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Your interest in my case, your personal statements, during my 4 years of imprisonment, have been a source of inspiration and great pride to me. I thank you very deeply, and none the less because they were made out of your devotion to the cause of peace and social progress. This is the first opportunity I've had during the last 4 years to make this personal acknowledgement and to express my appreciation.

When I entered prison in '51 you were then facing a virtual death sentence yourself. The victory in your case was celebrated by us, in our own way, in prison; for we regarded it as a victory of the peace voices and Negro people and as a tribute to your magnificent contributions.

In August, 1953 when I was preparing to testify in Pitts. in behalf of 5 Smith Act defendants, I was permitted a number of books, under close custody, at Terre Haute. One of them which I most enjoyed was yours on your 83rd birthday - the story of your frame-up. It was indeed a fine experience to read it -- worth all the incredible red tape to get it, and though it had to be read under the eyes of a special guard.

27-179-55

COPY

I should have been released with my five white co-defendants on March 1. But none know better than you the fury of a white supremacy gov't against a Negro who dares to file suit in person against the racist segregation maintained in the federal prison system. But I hope to greet you soon in person. Regards to Shirley. Sincerely, Benjamin J. Davis

27-174-56

FBI
ATLANTA
BOX
U.S.A.
ATLANTA

April 18, 1955

Mr. Benjamin J. Davis
c/o Allegheny County Jail
Ross Street
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Ben Davis:

Your letter from Pittsburgh reached me just as I returned from three weeks' rest in Haiti. I was more than glad to have this word from you and to know that your spirits are still high.

I have suffered with you in your incarceration, and have been, of course, very helpless to do anything except now and then to speak a word.

I confess the situation in this country has gone beyond anything that I ever dreamed, but it is bound to change in time, and signs of change are already here. For instance, I expected to be turned back from my trip in Haiti but was not. I was received with courtesy and kindness although of course there was little official recognition.

I am now returned to my work and hope to get my long novel in process of negotiation for publication soon.

My best regards from myself and wife, Shirley Graham, and every good wish for your success. We will be on hand to welcome you when you are again free.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

P.S. You were freed before this got typed. Hallelujah!
(signed)

27-170-57

c 1955
after april 18

BENJAMIN J. DAVIS
1 W. 126 St
NYC 27

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Thanks very much for re-directing your letter of April 18, to me at home. It was none the less appreciated. Its sentiments are no less heartening though the situation has changed - somewhat - and Im free.

It is a matter of very great importance to know that youre still very much on the forng line, and that youre finishing another novel. It will be anxiously awaited.

Somehow I shall have the privilege of talking with you and dont consider my return home complete until it takes place.

my warm personal regards to Shirley.

Sincerely,
Ben Davis

25-54-37

Committee for a
Debs Centennial Meeting
863 Broadway New York 3

October 11, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, 1 New York

42-19-143

Dear Dr. Dubois:

Thank you very much for your sponsorship of the Debs centennial meeting. It will be most helpful. I enclose a list of those who have lent their names to this affair, for your information.

I am writing to ask whether you will speak at the meeting. It seems to us that it would be especially fitting for you, with origins in the progressive movement that go back into the Debs period, to be one of the speakers.

The meeting will be held on November 30 at the Fraternal Clubhouse. It will be advertised under the sponsorship of the enclosed list (to which others may add their names in the next few days).

As the meeting will not be a very large one -- the hall seats about 400 -- we would not be able to pay a very large fee, but it would be a minimum of $25. Since there will be several speakers and we do not want the meeting to run late, brief (10 to 15 minute) speeches are planned. Should you desire any further information, I can be reached at WA 9-7739. I would appreciate hearing from you soon, so that we can go ahead with meeting arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Braverman
Harry Braverman

Rec'd Oct 13
10 minutes
$25

[Debs Cent. Meeting]

A2/IA/39

Sponsors for Debs Centennial Meeting
Oct. 11, 1955

Rev. Wm. T. Baird
Charlotta A. Bass
Carl Braden
Harry Braverman
Angus Cameron
John Ciardi
Charles A. Collins
Arthur K. Davis
Ernest DeMaio
Genora Dollinger
W. E. B. Dubois
Henry Pratt Fairchild
Albert Frampton
Royal W. France
Waldo Frank
Hans Freistadt
Elinor Ferry
Thomas I. Emerson
Lawrence Emery
Dan Gillmor
John T. Gojack
Michael Gold
Vincent Hallinan
David Herreshoff
Rockwell Kent
Robert Morss Lovett
Florence H. Luscomb
Conrad J. Lynn
Ernest Mazey
Charles A. Madison
Clifford T. MacAvoy
Anne McCann
William Howard Melish
Clyde R. Miller
Philip Morrison
Hugh Mulzac
Otto Nathan
Scott Nearing
Jessie Lloyd O'Connor
Sydney L. Ordower
Carl Polson
Richard Sasuly
George H. Shoaf
Barrie Stavis
Dirk T. Struik
Paul Sweezy
Pauline Taylor
Edward P. Totten
Harry F. Ward
Hugh Westen
Forrest Oran Wiggins
Claude Williams
H. H. Wilson
George Woodard

[Debs Centennial]

November 22, 1955

To participants in
Debs Centennial program,
November 28:

DuBois
McAvoy
Aronson
Stone
Cochran
Huberman

The following will be the order of speakers:

1. Mr. Aronson, as chairman, will open the meeting.
2. Mr. McAvoy
3. Mr. Stone
4. Mr. DuBois
5. Mr. Aronson will take a collection.
6. Mr. Cochran
7. Mr. Huberman

If all the speakers can arrange to be on hand promptly at 8 pm, it should be possible to begin the meeting on time.

HB

Harry Braverman

41/16/19

(1953)

41-16-122

INITIATING COMMITTEE

James Aronson
Bert Cochran
Leo Huberman
I. F. Stone

SPONSORS

Rev. William T. Baird
Charlotta A. Bass
Elmer Benson
Warren K. Billings
Carl Braden
Harry Braverman
Angus Cameron
Prof. John Ciardi
Charles A. Collins
Prof. Arthur K. Davis
Ernest De Maio
Genora Dollinger
Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
Prof. Thomas I. Emerson
Lawrence Emery
Prof. Henry P. Fairchild
Elinor Ferry
Albert Frampton
Royal Wilbur France
Waldo Frank
Laurent B. Frantz
Dr. Hans Freistadt
Dan Gillmor
John T. Gojack
Michael Gold
Vincent Hallinan
David Herreshoff
Rockwell Kent
Dr. Corliss Lamont
Robert Morss Lovett
Florence H. Luscomb
Conrad J. Lynn
Charles A. Madison
Ernest Mazey
Clifford T. McAvoy
Anne McCann
Rev. Wm. Howard Melish
Dr. Clyde R. Miller
Prof. Philip Morrison
Capt. Hugh Mulzac
Dr. Otto Nathan
Scott Nearing
Harvey O'Connor
Jessie Lloyd O'Connor
Sidney L. Ordower
John M. Pickering
Rev. Carl Polson
Richard Sasuly
George H. Shoaf
Barrie Stavis
Anna Louise Strong
Prof. Dirk J. Struik
Dr. Paul M. Sweezy
Pauline Taylor
Judge Edward P. Totten
Harry F. Ward
Rev. Hugh Weston
Dr. Forrest Oran Wiggins
Frank Wilkinson
Henry Willcox
Rev. Claude C. Williams
Prof. H. H. Wilson
George Woodard

speakers:

I. F. STONE
editor "I. F. Stone's Weekly"

BERT COCHRAN
editor "American Socialist"

LEO HUBERMAN
co-editor "Monthly Review"

CLIFFORD T. McAVOY
ALP Mayoralty candidate, 1953

W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS
noted author and scholar

chairman:

JAMES ARONSON
editor "National Guardian"

Eugene V. DEBS

Centennial Meeting

ONE hundred years ago this month, Eugene Victor Debs was born. He fought all his life for the working people. By his efforts, the most advanced ideas of our time were given the broadest appeal in our history. He combined the warmth of a boundless love for humanity with the soul of a warrior. Greater glory hath no man.

In his person and through the many people he roused, Debs showed that the American working man can rise to his feet and lift the nation with him to a new birth of freedom and well-being. By his example, he showed the greater worth of a life dedicated to humanity, and the greater nobility of a life fortified by the courage of conviction.

To honor this memory, to learn from this heritage, to renew the efforts of thinking men and women in the fight for a new and better world, this meeting has been hopefully organized. To the generations of youth yet to come who will one day take up Debs' great banner and who will find inspiration in his life and deeds, this meeting is confidently dedicated.

8:00 P.M.
MON. NOV. 28
CONTRIBUTION $1.00

FRATERNAL CLUBHOUSE
110 WEST 48 STREET
NEW YORK CITY

I can see the dawn of a better day of humanity. The people are awakening. In due course of time they will come to their own.

When the mariner, sailing over tropic seas, looks for relief from his weary watch, he turns his eyes toward the southern cross, burning luridly above the tempest-vexed ocean. As the midnight approaches, the southern cross begins to bend, and the whirling worlds change their places, and with starry finger-points the Almighty marks the passage of time upon the dial of the universe, and though no bell may beat the glad tidings, the lookout knows that the midnight is passing—that relief and rest are close at hand.

Let the people take heart and hope everywhere, for the cross is bending, the midnight is passing, and joy cometh with the morning.

—Eugene V. Debs

DEBS CENTENNIAL

HUBERT T. DELANY
617 West 145th Street
New York 31, N.Y.

October 14, 1955

Dear Dr. DuBois:

It is difficult in words for me to tell you how much I appreciate your interest and support. Letters like yours which clearly indicate that you understand the issues involved and that you do not believe there is any basis for the allegations and innuendos made against me by the Mayor are a source of real strength to me. It shall continue to be my aim to be worthy of the respect and confidence of my friends and of my fellow man.

42-3-16

Sincerely yours,

Hubert T. Delany

HTD/b

W. E. Burghardt Du Bois
Thirty-one Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

District Council 11 • UE

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

37 SOUTH ASHLAND BLVD. • CHICAGO 7, ILLINOIS • TELEPHONE: TAylor 9-8300

May 17, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 W. 26th Street
New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

This is in reply to your communication of May 16th regarding the World Peace Council.

As you know, because of travel restrictions I have not been able to function except to the extent that I can make my contribution for Peace in this country.

Never the less, I shall be happy to have my name considered for reelection to the Council for the ensuing year.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest De Maio

EDeM:jj
eowo

27-14-37

DISTRICT OFFICERS: ERNEST DE MAIO President | PETER NEPUTY Vice President | WILLIAM R. BURCH Sec'y-Treasurer | ALICE SMITH Recording Sec'y

EUGENE DENNIS
628 WEST 151st STREET
NEW YORK 31, N. Y.

May 16, 1955

Dear Friend:

During my imprisonment in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, I was heartened to learn that you were one of those who petitioned the President urging amnesty for me and all other Smith Act victims. As your statement declared, you were motivated by the conviction that if the guarantees of the Bill of Rights are to be preserved, they must be kept inviolate for all Americans, including the Communists and others whom you may happen to disagree with or oppose.

I would like you to know that I deeply appreciate your courageous action. It undoubtedly helped to facilitate my release and that of several of my co-defendants after 44 months in prison - the statutory "good time" limit on a five year sentence. More important, it was an affirmative expression of faith and initiative that served to stimulate other men and women of good will to challenge this and other manifestations of McCarthyism.

87-174-64

As you probably have read, my co-defendants and I were rearrested upon our release, placed on bail, and now face another trial under the "membership" section of the Smith Act -- one of the most ominous sections of this thought-control Act under which Claude Lightfoot of Illinois and Junius Scales of North Carolina already have been sentenced. We were originally convicted on the perjured testimony of professional witnesses for "conspiring" to organize the Communist Party as an association..."to teach and advocate the duty and necessity of overthrowing the government of the United States..." at some time in the indeterminate future. Now, seven years later, we are charged with "membership in the party".

Neither the first nor the second indictment charges overt acts of force and violence, which even Edgar Hoover's political police admit are non-existent. Furthermore, the charge on which my colleagues and I now face trial is in essence identical with the one on which we were convicted in 1949 and served long prison terms -- it is nothing more than "association" with likeminded persons and the "teaching and advocacy" of proscribed beliefs and books. Thus the "membership" indictments against us not only represent a further invasion of the First Amendment, but violate the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy.

Even more serious, as the Louisville Courier-Journal recently took occasion to emphasize, if membership in the Communist Party can be punished as a "crime", then a new and irreparable blow will have been struck against the freedom of speech, press, and assembly of all Americans. Indeed, under the purposefully vague and irrational criteria for "membership" in the Communist Party contained in the Communist Control Act of 1954, it will not only be a Dennis or Davis, a Lightfoot, Scales or Blumberg, but a Lattimore, Condon, Reuther, Bunche, Lehman, and Corsi who could be found guilty of "membership" or "participation" in "Communist" organizations or "conspiracies".

I am therefore taking the liberty of suggesting that you write the President, individually or in concert with others, urging that the Smith Act membership indictments be quashed and that all thought-control and guilt-by-association persecutions be halted. May I add my hope that you will also find occasion to speak out again in behalf of my fellow-victims of the Smith Act who are still in prison for the "crime" of teaching and advocating that the American people are under the duty and necessity of uniting to impose their will for peace, democracy and social progress.

It is my conviction that the sooner democratic expressions of this character are multiplied, the sooner our people will free themselves from the corroding evils of witchhunts, repression, and atomic war hysteria which now plague our country. Judging from the strong peace sentiments and democratic currents which are evidencing themselves throughout the nation, I venture the opinion that this worthy objective is more feasible of attainment today than it has been at any time during the past few years.

With my personal gratitude and appreciation for your efforts in behalf of amnesty for myself and my associates to the end that the protection of the Bill of Rights may be restored to all Americans, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Eugene Dennis

Eugene Dennis

P.S.-

I am sending a similar letter to the same 1000 individuals who spoke out for amnesty for all the Smith Act political prisoners.

Needless to say I value in a very special and deep-felt way your efforts in behalf of amnesty - all the more so

(over)

27-17A-65

because this represents only a fraction of the many signal contributions you have made and are making to advance the cause of freedom, equality and fraternity.

Trusting this finds you in good health, I extend best wishes and warmest regards to you and Mrs. Du Bois.

Eugene Dennis

May 31, 1955

Mr. Eugene Dennis
628 West 151 Street
New York 31, New York

My dear Mr. Dennis:

I read with interest your kind letter of May 16th, and beg to express to you my continued sympathy and cooperation in any way that I can make it.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

21-18-12

[de Silva]

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RHODA MILLER DE SILVA
P.O. Box 771, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y.

SPONSORS

Jim Aronson
Dr. Dorothy Brewster
Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
Shirley Graham
Dr. Hershel Meyer
Rev. William Howard Melish
Dr. Annette Rubenstein
Rev. Willard Uphaus
Rev. Dr. Elliot White
* * *
Secretary: Ida Pruitt
Treasurer: Louise Mally

February 25, 1955

Dear Friend:

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDNAPPING RHODA?

This is the headline in a Ceylonese newspaper published on January 25, 1955.

The enclosed account, which we ask you to read, tells you how it came about that Rhoda Miller de Silva is in this country, separated from her husband, her life and work disrupted and her freedom effectually curtailed.

This is a story that is incredible - but it is true; it is a story that ought to be in the realm of melodramatic fiction, but unfortunately it is part of the life of our days of cold war. We know Rhoda Miller de Silva and we believe she has been the object of a species of international McCarthyism that reached out to her home in Ceylon, 12,000 miles away, and took from her the most elementary civil liberty and human right: the right of a husband and wife to life together.

We know you have been asked again and again to contribute to important causes. But Rhoda Miller de Silva needs funds to enable her to fight for her right to rejoin her husband. A committee has been formed to aid her. And so we ask you again, because without your help, there is no reason to hope that this disrupted home may be reestablished in the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

I enclose .....

Please keep me informed about this case

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

27-18-62

[de Silva]

Rhoda Miller De Silva

March 17- 1953

Dear Dr. Du Bois,

We are very proud to have you as one of our sponsors and I am sending you the material we sent out to about five hundred people - The return has been very good and enabled us to pay the first lawyer's fee -

Yours most sincerely,

Ida Prince -

27-18-61

[de Silva]

New York, N.Y. June 16, 1955

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, JUNE 17,1955

Rhoda Miller de Silva, American-born wife of a Ceylonese, who was seized in her home in Ceylon over a year ago and flown to the United States, today applied for permission to travel to England without a passport for the purpose of joining her husband there. She had applied for a passport on March 21, 1955 and was refused, which she calls tantamount to "divorce by decree of the Passport Office."

The letter sent her by the Passport Office on April 21 states that her application was rejected because "it has been alleged that you were a Communist," - and invites her to submit an affidavit "as to whether you are now or ever have been a Communist."

4/21/54

In her reply to Miss Frances Knight, recently appointed director of the Passport Office, Mrs. de Silva, who claims that she was kidnapped from Ceylon and separated from her husband without benefit of writ of habeas corpus, hearing or charges, takes the position that the Passport Office has "usurped" the role of "political arbiter" and that the request for a sworn statement relating to her political views is unconstitutional.

> "I do not intend," says her letter to Miss Knight, dated May 21 and still unanswered, " - now or at any future time - to sign affidavits or make sworn statements or even to discuss with your Office whether the allegation that 'you were a Communist' is true or false. The United States Constitution does not give your office the authority to pry into my views or affiliations or lack of affiliations."

Mrs. de Silva maintains that there is no "inherent connection between my right to travel, my right to join my husband and whether or not I am a Communist - or a Rosecrutian - or a Republican." Charging the Passport Office with "uncontrolled arrogation of power", Mrs. de Silva states that her right to travel and to resume her normal life with her husband is not a privilege, but an inalienable right "deeply rooted in our American traditions and embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

> [Last July, Mrs. de Silva addressed a letter to President Eisenhower, in which she accused American authorities of organizing her expulsion from Ceylon and forcible return to the United States (March 17-19,1954) with the resultant separation from her husband].

Her current request to travel without a passport is pursuant to a little-known State Department regulation [22 C.F.R.53.2(f)] which provides that "no valid passport shall be required of a citizen of the United States. . . to depart from or enter into the continental United States . . . when specifically authorized by the Secretary of State."

Rhoda Miller de Silva - 1068 Lexington Avenue,2R, New York,N Y.
Templeton 1-3133

[de Silva Committee]

August 10, 1955

Dr. W.E.B.DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 1, New York

My dear Doctor:

There was a small meeting on Monday evening of this week of our Committee and I was given the pleasant task of writing you (I shall confess at the start that it is to ask you to do something).

The problem, briefly is:

I applied for a passport to join my husband in England some months ago, was rejected on grounds that [redacted] "it is alleged that you were a Communist"; was invited to sign an affidavit, which I categorically refused to do. I then applied for authorization to travel without passport, on an affidavit of identity. For identification purposes, an affidavit of identity is as valid a travel document as a passport. I would waive - willingly and even with pleasure - my right to "protection" from [redacted] United States embassies abroad. Having been the object of [redacted] their solicitude, I do not feel that this would be a very great sacrifice to make in the cause of the right to travel.

42-3-14

The State Department has let it be known (to various Congressmen and Senators to whom I wrote and who so informed me) that:

> "The question is now under consideration and final decision is awaiting receipt from Mrs. de Silva's attorney of ... information as to whether she would be admitted by the British authorities."

The question has been put (on the other side) to the British authorities and they are ever so polite. It has "top priority" and will unquestionably continue to have "top priority" for a very long time.

We, however, feel that while it might have been pointless to make an issue had the British authorities responded immediately - since there are so many issues to be fought in this country and so few forces - the time has come when we should exert pressure on the State Department to issue a passport or the authorization to travel without passport immediately and unconditionally.

When the State Department issues a passport, it does not require the applicant to submit proof of admission into a foreign country. There is no reason in the law why authorization to travel without passport should be dependent upon such proof. If I had such authorization and England would not permit me to enter, some other country (even outside the Socialist world) would. What the State Department is doing is to treat this case like a deportation case, where proof of admission to another country is, of course, necessary.

I was asked by the Committee to appeal to you to make a statement, if you will, that we could use in various efforts we are planning, to try to stir up letters, petitions and telegrams to the State Department urging them to issue either a passport or authorization to travel without passport - immediately and unconditionally and explaining why you believe this should be done. (We have all taken the liberty of assuming that you will believe it should be done, since you have honored us by being a sponsor of this Committee).

Will you be able to find time to do this within the next few days? It need not be long, for we are sure that you will make it eloquent. If you wish to discuss it before you put it to paper, I would be very happy to visit you at your convenience, either at your office or at home. I could manage it in the middle of the day - or any time after 5:30 on weekdays or any time over the weekend.

42-3-15

I am enclosing the press release that was sent out at the time the authorization to travel without passport was requested. To my very great astonishment the Daily Mirror, alone among New York papers, printed it. And to my pleasure, it was used in full by the Lucknow (India) Herald, whose editor very graciously sent me a cutting.

I - and we - shall look forward to hearing from you. It was a great pleasure to see you and Shirley at the Guardian, where I warned you that this letter was forthcoming. Or for me to come to see you,

If you wish to talk with me, please telephone me at the office - Rector 2-3491.

very warm greetings to you and Shirley —

Affectionately

Rhoda Miller de Silva.

For the de Silva Committee

[de Silva Committee]

September 11, 1955

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

Dear Dr. DuBois:

I should have thanked you very much earlier for your letter of August 16, 1955, but since it was addressed to a matter that concerned not only me, personally, but the members of the committee who are working on my case, and since we have not met for rather too many weeks, I had to see them individually.

42-3-13

Of course you are right on both counts: that such statements of law should be made by lawyers or experts (I have not been successful in that respect); and secondly, that your very recent correspondence did not exactly equip you to make such a statement. It was very good and thoughtful of your to have refused.

In any event, thank you for sending the correspondence you have had with Miss Knight. That vicious next to the last paragraph contained in her letter to you, was also in the letter she wrote me - what colossal insolence. They have a dozen or so different paragraphs, apparently, which they combine in different ways for different applicants. Not even Dr. DuBois, in their little minds, is worthy of a special letter of refusal.

Your letter is splendid - have you heard anything more since Miss Knight honored you with a reply ("The matter is being given careful attention" etc.)?

Are you intending to take your passport demand to the courts? We were wondering and interested, of course. I suppose, however, that the other case now to go before the circuit court of appeals in Washington D.C. (and probably to the Supreme Court) will be the test case for those who refuse to sign affidavits - and its outcome will determine that issue, for the time being, at least. I must say that I was rather bewildered to see that the very fine lawyer who is fighting that case (and has fought most of the others) - and who himself must construct legal arguments on the unconstitutionality of the whole affidavit procedure, has himself signed the affidavit in his own application for a passport (which was refused). But principles seem to be very flexible things these days, do they not.

I hope you are well and that this frightful summer heat has not been too much of a drain on you.

warm greetings to you and Shirley - Rhoda Miller de Silva

Rhoda Miller de Silva
Room 1008, 220 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

[de Silva]

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RHODA MILLER DE SILVA

P.O. BOX 771, Church St. Station
New York, N. Y.

November , 1955

42/IA/23

Dear Friend,

Rhoda Miller de Silva sailed on Saturday, October 22nd, for England to rejoin her husband. We know that you rejoice with her in the coming reunion and that you had a part in bringing this about.

Her passport, as you know, was denied her. A lawyer friend suggested, howevwr, that a very little-known regulation for travel on an affidavit of identity (22CF.R.53.2 (f)) be used. The English government was willing to accept this affidavit and the United States government gave her permission to leave this country.

The lawsuit against the Trans-World Airlines, for kidnapping Rhoda and bringing her here against her will, will be carried on by this Committee as Rhoda's presence is not needed in the pre-trial period. We feel it important for several reasons to carry on the lawsuit. The fact that Rhoda was able to leave the country, we are sure, was one of the indirect results of the suit. That the TWA, and other airlines also, will hesitate in the future to commit similar acts should be another result. And also, the lawsuit brings pressure on our government, the kind of pressure that is brought by all affirmations of the rights and liberties of citizens and human beings. In a sense, travelling on an affidavit of identity goes right to the heart of the inalienable right to travel.

The present status of the lawsuit is encouraging. The TWA made a motion, as you know, to dismiss the case on the grounds that Rhoda had refused to answer two questions: "Are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party or a communist party?" and "Has your husband evern been a member of the Communist Party?" Rhoda naturally refused to answer these questions as irrelevant and none of the business of the TWA, and when ordered by the Court to do so pleaded the Fifth Amendment. That this motion to dismiss the case was thrown out by the Federal judge in New York is, in itself, an important civil liberties decision. There will be some funds needed to carry on this lawsuit, and we know we can count on your support.

We were on the Holland-America liner, the S.S. Ryndam, to see Rhoda off. She has asked us to convey to all of you her warmest appreciation of all that you have done for her and made it possible for her to do.

Yours sincerely,

Ida Pruitt

Ida Pruitt, for the Committee

(1955) [de Silva]

The Rhoda Miller Committee
c/o Milton H. Friedman
342 Madison Avenue, Room 930
New York, N. Y.

42/1A/24

Dear Friend:

We are writing to bring you up to date about what we are doing for Rhoda Miller de Silva.

We have sent out no communications since Rhoda left this country to join her husband in England, b ecause there has been nothing specific to report. Our lawyer has been doing the necessary preliminary work in order to put her case against Trans World Air Lines on the calendar.

There are still numerous technicalities that he must attend to: it is impossible at this time to tell exactly when the case will be ready to go to trial. But since we know your concern, we are anxious to let you know that it has not gone by default.

From time to time, as there are further developments, you will hear from us.

Sincerely yours,

Ida Pruitt

Ida Pruitt
Secretary

[de Silva]

THE STORY OF RHODA MILLER DE SILVA

On a bitter cold March day in 1954, a TWA airplane, Flight 903, deposited at Idlewild Airport, New York, a woman dressed in a thin cotton dress and summer sandals. She wore no stockings. She carried no luggage and possessed only $1.40. No friends met her plane, for although she had travelled 12,000 miles from Ceylon, she had been prevented from sending cables.

Such was the homecoming of Rhoda Miller de Silva, returning to her native land after ten years.

She had not planned this journey half around the world: she was kidnapped two days before her arrival in New York and her captors, not she, had decided upon her destination.

Why?

Rhoda Miller, formerly an employee of Time Inc. and an active member of the New York Newspaper Guild, had married a Ceylonese national, Joseph de Silva, whom she met in London in 1945 when she was writing for the (London) Economist and he for a group of Indian newspapers. After the war, they worked in Poland as journalists for almost five years and later, in London, collaborated on a book about the social and political transformation of postwar Poland, for which they did not (and do not now) conceal their admiration and respect. They called their book "Peace on the Vistula".

Early in 1953, they decided to make their home in Ceylon, of which Joseph de Silva is a citizen. The McCarran Act, with its barriers against Asian and other peoples, and its selectivity as to race, color and thought, excluded any consideration of their coming to the United States.

They arrived in Ceylon in April, 1953. Ceylon law requires twelve months residence before Rhoda de Silva could acquire her husband's citizenship. Some two weeks before her residence requisite would have been met, at 10:00 in the morning of March 17, 1954, ten police officers, men and women, entered her home in Kandy with a deportation order signed by the Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala. She was rushed 75 miles by car to a police station in Colombo, the capital. There, two Americans appeared who said they were "from the consulate". They tried to bully her into signing a passport application blank, which she refused to do. [Had she complied, her forced departure from Ceylon could have been made to appear voluntary].

From the police station Mrs. de Silva was carried by the same police escort to an unknown destination, which turned out to be the airport. The car drove up alongside the plane, she was relieved of all but the equivalent of $10.00 and at 3:30 P.M. on that day, she was herded into TWA Flight No. 903 - enroute to New York.

At the entrance to the plane, Mrs. de Silva was greeted by an unidentified American, presumably an official, in civilian clothes:

> "Where are you going?" he asked. "I have no idea," she answered. "You're going to New York," he said. "By whose orders?" she asked. "By orders of the American Embassy and the Ceylon Government," he answered. " In that sequence?" she asked. At that, he laughed uproariously.

87-18-63

Meanwhile her husband had obtained a writ of habeas corpus from the Ceylon Supreme Court. He raced frantically to the airport. The plane had left a half hour earlier - "on schedule".

* * *

As TWA Flight 903 took off from Colombo, the stewardess told Rhoda de Silva that she was travelling "without ticket and without passport" - and that she was "confined to the plane for the entire trip."

At Bombay, several hours later, she was held on the plane against international regulations, even during refuelling. TWA-uniformed men poured into the plane, barred the exit to prevent her getting off and would not even permit her to send a cable to her husband. She would not have sufficient funds to do so at any later point. She demanded the right to ask the Indian police to take her into their custody for at least a few hours, so that she could communicate with Ceylon. India and Ceylon are both members of the British Commonwealth and since this was the last stopping point in the Commonwealth, it seemed to her that there might be possibilities here of extricating herself from the American authorities. Although the Bombay airport is Indian soil, she was unable to break through her American "airlines guard".

27-18-64

The following morning, on March 18, 1954, before the plane landed at Cairo, Mrs. de Silva was handed the stub of a plane ticket (which she had previously been told did not exist). The ticket bore the note that it was issued at Colombo on March 16, the day before her arrest. International airlines do not sell tickets without passports, but the TWA crew refused to disclose on what travel document the ticket had been issued.

At Rome, a few hours later, they apparently changed signals and told her that they held a passport in her name "in the custody of the TWA": it was, they said, "a five-day passport for repatriation only". This passport must have been issued at least two days before the deportation order was served in Colombo. [Anyone who has gone through the processing of a U.S. passport would safely assume that plans for the passport - if not the document itself - must have existed for a considerable time before that]. Rhoda Miller de Silva has never had this passport in her possession; nor, indeed, has she ever seen it. She was never able to pry it loose from the "custody of the TWA.

* * *

"We are taking you to New York, by force, if necessary. We are carrying out orders". That was the answer to her protests during the 12,000 mile journey to Idlewild Airport, New York.

* * *

On March 18, 1954, Ceylon newspapers reported that "two American Security Officers assisted in the deportation of Mrs. de Silva." . . . and that "police at airports enroute were alerted."

In a debate in the Ceylon Senate, Senator Nadesan, a lawyer of international repute, charged:

". . . the main reason which induced the deportation of Mrs.Joseph de Silva appears to have been that her presence here was certainly embarrassing to the American Embassy in this country...Mrs. de Silva wrote that very remarkably brilliant book..."The Rosenbergs -What was Their Crime?" It was rather embarrassing to the American Embassy in Ceylon that the wife of a Ceylon national, who at that time, was technically an American citizen...should have written a book of that nature."

* * *

Aside from notice of arrival, the daily newspapers and wire services in the United States ignored this kidnapping, which many papers and journals abroad wrote about with horror and incredulity. Mrs. de Silva addressed a protest to the President of the United States, citing the debate in the Ceylon Senate and providing him with a detailed account of the events of March 17-19, 1954. Although many months have passed and this protest has been widely published in many countries of Europe and Asia and in the National Guardian in the United States, neither the President nor any of the U.S. Senators and Congressmen to whom copies were sent, has answered or even acknowledged receipt of it.

27-18-65

When the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotelawala, visited the United States, many letters were written him urging that he do his part to right the wrong that had been done. The Ceylon Embassy replied with a statement that at best indicates an ignorance of the McCarran contribution to American hospitality.

"The Government of Ceylon would offer no impediment to Mr. de Silva's departure from Ceylon for the United States . . . should Mrs. de Silva obtain for her husband the right of entry into the United States for residence here."

Her own request for an interview with the Prime Minister was refused: the refusal, it is worth nothing, came not on Monday, the day of his arrival in Washington, but on Tuesday, after he had conferred with President Eisenhower and various State Department officials.

* * *

Stripped to its barest bone, that is the story of how Rhoda Miller and Joseph de Silva, a husband and wife, were separated by half the world, their home broken, their marriage disrupted, their immediate plans for life and work shattered.

[Dilag]

STANDARD TIME
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LEWIS DOBY
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
2023 - 11TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 25, 1955.

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois,
31 Grace Court,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Do you have the following books on hand? The Suppresion of the African Salve Trade, The Gift of Black Folk, The World and Africa, The Quest of the Silver Fleece, Dark Princess and the Dust of Dawn. If you have the above named books, will you be good enough to send the price of each, and the price of your recently published Novel by Return Mail?

Sincerely yours,

Lewis Doby

LD:H

April 27, 1955

Mr. Lewis Doby
2023 -- 11th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Doby:

My SUPPRESSION OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE is available at the Social Science Press, Room 606, 51 East 42 Street, New York 17, New York, at $3.

The other books, The Gift of Black Folk, the World and Africa, the Quest of the Silver Fleece, Dark Princess and theDust of Dawn are out of print and can only be obtained second hand.

My recently written novel has not yet been published except the one chapter which was printed in MASSES AND MAINSTREAM in February, '55. When the whole novel will be published I do not know.

Thank you for your interest.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

41-19E-7

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[Dodd]

DR WEB DU BOIS

23 WEST 26TH ST NYK

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September 19, 1955

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

Langston Hughes suggested that we send you an advance copy of his new book, FAMOUS NEGRO MUSIC MAKERS, which we are publishing on September 26th, and the book was mailed to you late last week. We hope you will schedule it for early reading, and shall, of course, appreciate your sending us your comments on it.

Sincerely yours,

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY, Inc.

Mary McPartland

Mary McPartland
Publicity Department

27-178-29

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY
432 FOURTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 16, N.Y.
PUBLISHERS

October 4, 1955

Dear Mr. DuBois:

We have looked carefully into the factors which caused the choice of the characters for Langston Hughes's book and I can assure you that no pressure was put on Mr. Hughes in this office. He was told by experts of his acquaintance and probably also told by our library advisors that the inclusion of Paul Robeson would probably eliminate the book from acceptance by a good many school libraries, state adoption lists, etc. Evidently he decided that it would be unwise in a book of this sort to damage the circulation to the degree which he thought would eventuate. This book, as you know, is a juvenile and he wanted it to be noncontroversial.

Yours very truly,

Edward Dodd

Edward H. Dodd, Jr.

Mr. W. E. Burghhardt DuBois,
31 Grace Court,
Brooklyn, 2, N. Y.

EHD/MCD

27-78-30

31-5-26

Mrs. George Dorsey

acknowledges with grateful appreciation
the kind expression of your
sympathy

Thank you for your letter.

[Dorsey]

509 W. Lafayette Avenue
Baltimore 17, Maryland
April 25, 1955

Dr. W.E. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 2, New York

Dear Cousin William,

Thank you for taking time to send the very comforting and consoling letter. I have read it several times and have been helped.

The end came quickly for mother. She lived only four days after a sudden stroke. We were very glad to have Yolande with us at the time. She, Emma Piper and another cousin were the only ones, on mother's side of the family, who could come. We learned from Yolande that you were in Haiti.

I am glad that you came to visit us last year and that mother had the chance to see and talk with you. Frequently afterwards, we talked of you and of the days she had known you in Great Barrington. Both of us read with interest the two books you sent referring to your early life which helped her to recall those years.

When are you coming to Baltimore again? I would like to see you and to meet Mrs. DuBois. I also appreciate your very kind invitation to visit you in Brooklyn when I come to New York. Yolande and I talked over going to Great Barrington during the spring or summer. I hope that we can make the trip. If so, we may stop over in New York at that time.

I hope that you and Mrs. DuBois had a pleasant trip to the Caribbean and that both of you are well.

Yours sincerely,

Edythe

87-18-17

May 31, 1955

Mr. Cedric Dover
3 St. Peter's Square
London, W. 6
England

My dear Mr. Dover:

Shirley and I are delighted to see your name as editor of TREES.

We have read the copy you sent us with interest and hope you will have a long and profitable career in this work.

Let us hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh